FBIS DAILY REPORT

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JANA REPORTS 'ARAFAT ADDRESS AT STEADFASTNESS FRONT SUMMIT

LD161030 Tripoli JANA in English 0906 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Text] Tripoli, April 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--At the end of the 15 April session of the Fourth Summit Conference of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat delivered a speech, which reads:

This fourth Summit of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front in the country of Al-Fatah revolution is an expression of our determination to confront the tripartite American-Zionist-Sadat conspiracy of Camp David. This is also an expression of our Arab nation's conscience, the national progressive trend which has confronted and will always confront the challenges and conspiracies designed by world imperialism, Zionism and their regional agents, with a view to subdue this nation which has (?avowed not) to kneel down for them, but to follow up the great march of challenge until it takes the proper positions in the world with dignity.

This nation will struggle for its complete independence and the liberation of the Palestinian homeland from the Zionist claws and the recent attempts by [word indistinct] imperialism to dominate (?the) Arab region, Zionist attempts which try to subdue these great hero masses of Lebanon. We have also to mention the masses of our people in Syria, while they are facing all the attempts of imperialism and reaction which try to inflict harm on the steadfastness of Syria, who carries the burden of this responsibility on the front line against the Zionist enemy.

I say this at times (?when) schemes increase and become more [word indistinct], but at the same time our will and courage increase and become stronger in the face of all these challenges.

At this time, we have to thank this stand by the masses of our people in the occupied lands in the face of the Zionist occupation. We have to thank the masses of the Lebanese people, particularly in southern Lebanon, which stand proudly against the imperialists.

We must also mention that the masses on the land of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah are standing up for all attempts to harm this revolution. We must also thank our masses in Algeria which stood firmly against all attempts to harm its strength and power of confrontation.

We must also mention our masses in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen which stood solidly against all attempts to strangle the revolution.

Now on this land of Al-Fatah and with permission from my brother Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, I want to say to him that we came to the land of Al-Fatah with open hearts and we found the Libyan people's hearts open to us, regardless of the small secondary differences. The relations between us and our beloved brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi are so important that they cannot be allowed to be harmed by any attempts here or there.

Our strength, unity and concerted stand with our brother Mu'ammar and our Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation is far greater than to be harmed by a temporary or secondary consideration.

We remain all together until victory.

VOP: 'ARAFAT ARRIVES IN BEIRUT FROM DAMASCUS

NC161543 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to Arab World 1515 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar arrived in Beirut from Damascus at noon today.

VOP REPORTS 'ARAFAT-MARCHAIS MEETING

NC170755 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 17 Apr 80

[Text] In an atmosphere of friendship and amity, brother Abu 'Ammar met yesterday evening with the secretary general of the French Communist Party, Comrade George Marchais. Also attending on the Palestinian side were the members of the Fatah Central Committee, brothers Abu Jihad and Abu al-Hawl; the member of the PLO Executive Committee, Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani; the director of the joint forces' Central Operations Department, Staff Brig Gen Abu al-Walid; the members of the PFLP's Political Bureau, Taysir (Qub'ah) and Abu 'Ali Mustafa; and Fatah foreign relations official, Abu Hatim. Those attending on the French side were: the member of the political bureau; the secretary of the Central Committee and the head of the Foreign Relations Department of the French Communist Party; the member of the Foreign Politics Department of the Central Committee, Alain (Greche); and the member of the French Communist Youth Secretariat, Jacques (Perault).

The meeting dealt with bolstering the relations between the PLO and the French Communist Party and was followed by a dinner banquet held by brother Abu 'Ammar in honor of the visiting delegation. The banquet was attended by, in addition to the delegation, the leader of the Lebanese Communist Party, Nicola ash-Shawi; the Lebanese Communist Party's secretary general, George Hawi; members of the party's Political Bureau, Nadim 'Abd as-Samad and (Karimah Murawwa); and the secretary general of the Amal communist organization, Muhsin Ibrahim.

At the end of the meeting, brother Abu 'Ammar told newsmen: My brothers and I were glad to hold these talks with my friend George Marchais and the delegation accompanying him. These talks encompassed all our mutual issues, the Palestinian issue and the Middle East problem. We also discussed the tension stemming from the American armed displays in the region. We also expressed our deep appreciation of the attitude adopted by the French Communist Party and the French progressive and democratic forces toward the Palestinian people and their just cause.

Replying to a question, Comrade George Marchais said: We exchanged views and made an overall assessment of the situation in the Middle East and the world. We are in agreement on the [words indistinct]. Marchais went on: I informed my friend 'Arafat and my Palestinian friends of our party's decision to strengthen our solidarity in order to lead to France's official recognition of the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people and in order to urge France to make an initiative so as to attain the establishment of the independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil. We consider this to be in the interest of the Palestinian people and in the interest of France and the French people.

Marchais added: We believe that our country, in the wake of Giscard d'Estaing's statements, must adopt initiatives in an independent manner, without making any concessions to American pressure and without any dependence on the European countries' attitudes.

Marchais added: France is an independent country. I have a feeling that France has great credit in Lebanon and the Middle East in general, and that the Palestinians and the Lebanese and the Arabs expect France to adopt such positive attitudes. We will urge the French Government to take such steps. Marchais said that the French Communist Party will support any French steps in this respect.

To a question on a possible visit by Abu 'Ammar to France, Marchais replied: This is certain. My friend 'Arafat will undoubtedly visit France in the near future.

AL-HASAN: PLO FEARS 'EXPLOSION' IN LEBANON

LD161531 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 12-18 Apr 80 22-23

[Interview given to Huda al-Murr by Khalid al-Hasan, chairman of the Palestine National Council Foreign Relations Committee and member of Fatah Central Committee, in London--date not given]

[Text] [Question] What was the result of French President Giscard's tour with regard to the Palestinian issue?

[Answer] During his tour and in joint statements he issued with more than one Arab leader, Giscard adopted the stand reached by Europe--that the Palestinians should be treated as a people having national rights and the right to self-determination. The tour also showed that Resolution 242 is inadequate for reaching a solution to the Middle East problem and that a new resolution, which will take a different view of the Palestinian people, is imperative--that is, the Palestinian people must participate through their representatives in any negotiations for establishing peace in the area, and the PLO's participation in any discussion for peace is indispensable. That is what has been announced. What has not been announced, however, are the questions which the French president put to the Arab officials about their views on the new draft resolution which Europe will seek to have the Security Council issue. In addition to this, the swift German and British reaction supporting the statements issued by the French president, and British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Douglas Hurd's visit to the same countries which Giscard visited can be regarded as [sentence left incomplete]. The main purpose of Hurd's visit was to inquire about the Arab views on the new draft resolution. At this point, I would like to add that the Arab stand was positive. It is true that the Arabs officially suggested specific views to the French president and the British minister of state; the Arab leaders' view, however, was: "You must contact the PLO to learn from it what it wants." This has created a new atmosphere which, I believe, will develop the relations between the PLO and the EEC states, particularly France and Britain.

[Question] Do you believe that there is coordination between Carter and the European states on this move, since the European leaders can move within a framework within which the American President cannot move at present?

[Answer] Maybe. We do not know. All that we know is that France is coordinating among the EEC countries while Britain is coordinating between these countries and the United States. Whether that is true or not, our assessment is that Europe cannot take a special initiative to have a new resolution on the Middle East issued without the prior approval of the Americans, because of the American veto. Otherwise, the European resolution will be of no value.

Unless, of course, the whole operation is some kind of trick to make the Arab states believe that Europe is going to adopt a new stand, so that the Arab states in return will offer economic facilities to France and other European countries.

[Question] What material gain did the French president achieve from his tour?

[Answer] He signed trade agreements with the Arab states amounting to $14 billion. France's deficit this year was about $12 million. Giscard therefore has more than covered his country's deficit. If the whole operation is some kind of trick, then it is a very regrettable matter, and the European countries will pay a high price for it. But if they are sincere, it means that they are coordinating with the United States. This leads us to say that such an initiative will not see the light of day before the American elections are over. It is known that the election result will have a great effect on this decision. Carter could change his mind, as usual, or probably a new President who does not believe in this policy will be elected. In such an event, Arab-Western relations will decline considerably.

[Question] Should such a resolution materialize, could it be said that it was the result of the Western states' need for the Arabs and not the result of the European belief in the rights of the Palestinian people?

[Answer] We must clearly understand that no European or Western state will ever side with any Arab state or people, including the Palestinian people, on the basis of principles, ethics and what is right or wrong. The West's attitudes stem from private interests. We say, therefore, that if the Arabs were able to deal with the Western and European interests in the Arab world in the same way as the West has been dealing with theirs, we would have achieved great and very important gains. However, the problem is that the Arabs act on the basis of friendship and principles--things which have nothing at all to do with international politics. Therefore, any kind of relations with the Western states, whose social philosophy--let alone their foreign policies--is based on interests, are useless.

[Question] French sources have said that Giscard supports a formula of federation between Jordan and the proposed Palestinian entity as a basis for negotiations. How true is this?

[Answer] The French president presented his idea in the form of a question as to whether a federal state is possible. On the basis of this point, we can emphasize that the West is not acting on the basis of the principle of ethics and rights but on the basis of interests, because it is still trying to prevent the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. The West would be very happy if we rid it of this problem, abolished the Palestinian people and kept things within the framework of the United Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, but the answer Giscard received from the Arabs through us and the stand taken by King Husayn were clear. In reply to that question, King Husayn told the French president: Self-determination is the right of the Palestinian people, and when this right is attained and the Palestinian state is established, the Palestinians will decide the type of the relationship they want to have with Jordan and the Jordanians, too, will decide what kind of a relationsship they wish to have with us. We announce from now that there will be a confederal relationship between us and Jordan, but only after the establishment of the Palestinian state and by the decision of the Palestinian parliament.

It would be unreasonable for anyone to decide on confederation on behalf of the Palestinian parliament. An international Palestinian identity must be established which will continue to uphold the Palestinian cause until the final objective is achieved--the objective of a united Palestine within one democratic state.

[Question] For the establishment of a Palestinian entity, a condition is being made to the effect that the PLO recognize Israel in return for PLO's recognition by America and the West. How true is this?

[Answer] Recognition is a sovereign right. Any precondition for any action is rejected. Recognition has no relationship with the establishment or existence of states. Also, no leadership has the right to decide on this principle before the Palestinian parliament is established. If the West, the European states and America insist on the subject of federation, the question of recognition and the subject of relations, then they are not seeking a solution. Despite our earnest desire to achieve a solution through political means, should circumstances preclude political solutions, we will continue our armed struggle, and we are very reassured about the future.

[Question] Have the Western states presented proposals to the PLO to make it recognize Israel?

[Answer] This subject is not put for discussion at present. It is directly connected with the Palestinian people and it can only be raised in the Palestinian parliament. There are many other things which can only be decided after the establishment of the Palestinian state and the Palestinian parliament.

[Question] It has been reiterated that the Soviet Union is disappointed over the European-Palestinian flirtations. Is that true?

[Answer] As far as the Palestinian cause is concerned, the Soviet Union is a friendly country. It is not isolated from international politics or so foolish as to be upset by what you call European-Palestinian flirtation. It could not possibly reject Western support for the Palestinian people. The reverse is true. It will be very happy if the West can secure a new resolution preserving Palestinian rights. However, it is in its own interest and in our interest for it to reject an American monopoly on the problem. Ever since the story of the Security Council resolutions began, we have been saying that the Middle East should not be monopolized by any major power and that the Soviet Union, America and Europe must be present in the arena.

[Question] Now that we have mentioned the Soviet Union, is it true that the Palestinians are mediating between Iran and Moscow?

[Answer] There is no problem that requires mediation between Iran and the Soviet Union. The existing problem at present is over Afghanistan. There are Iranian-Soviet contacts over Afghanistan, but we are not mediating in that connection.

[Question] But certain sources have emphasized that Abu 'Ammar [PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat] has handed Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr a letter explaining the implications of the invasion of Afghanistan?

[Answer] I do not believe that the Soviets have done that. A discussion had probably taken place between Abu 'Ammar and the Soviets, the details of which were later conveyed by the PLO leader to Bani-Sadr in an attempt to reach a solution to the Afghan problem. I repeat that Abu 'Ammar is not mediating between the Soviet Union and Iran.

[Question] There has been talk about Iranian support for the Palestinian revolution. What is the size of this support? Are there Iranian fighters in the ranks of the Palestinian revolution?

[Answer] So far the Iranian support is confined to the Iranian political stand against imperialism and Israel. We appreciate and welcome this support. The change in Iranian policy from supporting Israel to considering it an enemy is in itself a buttress for the Palestinian revolution, irrespective of the fact that such a stand is the duty of the Iranian Revolution. As for fighters, the Iranian people have an overwhelming desire to join Fatah ranks to struggle alongside the Palestinian people against the Zionist enemy. So far, however, we have not turned this desire into a reality because we do not need it at this stage. When the appropriate circumstances come, we will undoubtedly give the opportunity to the Iranian people, just as it is given to other peoples.

[Question] Two weeks ago, Fatah issued an internal bulletin saying: "The Palestinian revolution is experiencing circumstances similar to those of 1970 in Jordan. What is your comment?

[Answer] The fact is that no sincere person can be pleased with the situation in Lebanon, be he Lebanese or Palestinian. Sa'd Haddad's persistent shelling of the southern towns and villages is a matter that cannot be simply disregarded or tolerated. The Israeli presence in Lebanon and the accompanying action can be a support for the forces which are opposed to any Lebanese-Palestinian accord. I believe that this matter is not only painful but has not been considered by anyone. The political meaning of what Fatah has said in this connection is an expression of fear of the failure of detente among the Lebanese, for it is believed that in such an event the forces which are cooperating with Israel through military aid and experts could explode the situation in the Lebanese arena--something which nobody wants.

[Question] Has the appearance of Palestinian arms in the Lebanese arena any connection with the explosion you spoke about?

[Answer] So far, there has been nothing new other than military parades. The arms that have appeared in the Lebanese arena at present are heavy tanks, which were not present in Lebanon before, and some long-range artillery. If the situation continues as it is and the disputes among the Lebanese continue, then the situation will most certainly explode. Therefore, we are trying to prevent this from happening. Recently, Abu 'Ammar carried out a series of contacts with President Ilyas Sarkis and Prime Minister al-Huss. I believe that these contacts were relatively satisfactory. Meetings have also been held between the Palestinian and Lebanese military commands. If what was said at these meetings is implemented, I can be sure of cooperation between us and the lawful Lebanese authorities. As for detente among the Lebanese, we have nothing to do with it.

[Question] Where are your contacts with the Lebanese front leading?

[Answer] They are within the Lebanese-Palestinian accord. Despite the fact that our sympathies lie with the Lebanese nationalist movement, the circumstances necessitate some kind of relations in order to create a suitable atmosphere for reaching an understanding with the other side, because we want all Lebanon to be our friend, and not only one side.

DER SPIEGEL INTERVIEWS SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER

DW151400 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 14 Apr 80 pp 178-189

[Editors Adel S. Elias and Dieter Wild undated interview with Prince Saud al-Faysal Ibn 'Abd al-Aziz Al Saud, foreign minister of Saudi Arabia, in Riyadh]

[Text] SPIEGEL: Your Highness, Iran ruled by unpredictable Khomeyni, Afghanistan occupied by the Soviet Union, communist South Yemen about to conquer North Yemen which is allied with you, Saudi Arabia shocked by the 2 weeks of battle in the mosque at Mecca: Are the rich oil states on the Gulf not bound to be seized by a feeling of world political doom?

Sa'ud: A feeling of world doom? You have listed a series of events and supposed that all of them wield the same weight. But this is not the case. The unrest in the region is not attributable to internal causes.

SPIEGEL: Not even the battle over Mecca?

Sa'ud: Naturally the occurrences in the mosque at Mecca were bad. But in our awareness they do not have the same importance as they do in the media of the West.

SPIEGEL: Do you mean to say by this that you were not shocked?

Sa'ud: The extremism of the mosque occupiers shocked us. But we are not timid people.

SPIEGEL: Not even after Afghanistan?

Sa'ud: Afghanistan means a relapse into imperialism: the occupation of an independent country by the armed forces of a superpower. This is dangerous not only for this region. In my opinion, it is just as dangerous for Germany as it is for Saudi Arabia.

SPIEGEL: In your opinion, what long-term goal is Moscow pursuing with the invasion of Afghanistan?

Sa'ud: We are not so brazen as to believe that we know enough about the motives behind the policy of the superpowers. But what we can judge is the event per se and its significance for our independence.

SPIEGEL: And what significance do you see there?

Sa'ud: No matter what the motives of the Soviets were--be they self-defense or attack--the result is the same. This alone matters.

SPIEGEL: Has the situation, therefore, not turned rather gloomy for you?

Sa'ud: Yes, that is what it is. But as I said, the gloominess and the element of the world's doom in that context are not the consequence of internal causes. Rather, they are based on the fact that the occupation of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union threatens the security of the region.

SPIEGEL: Statements by foreign diplomats say that Saudi Arabia, the West's pillar in the Middle East, will barely be able to survive the next 2 to 5 years politically, provided some other Gulf states do not collapse even earlier. What do you have to say about such prophecies?

Sa'ud: They are wrong. One incident in 50 years does not entail instability. You in Germany have more raids by terrorists than we have in Saudi Arabia. Do you think that your form of government will collapse as a result?

SPIEGEL: But it must be frustrating for you to find that with your wealth you can buy anything you want except, obviously, one thing: political and military security.

Sa'ud: You are forgetting the causes of the insecurity here. Are the Arabs perhaps by nature more unstable than other ethnic groups? History proves that the opposite is true.

SPIEGEL: After the overthrow of the shah you lamented the fact that the friends of the United States cannot rely on the United States. What do you think the United States should have done for its friend, the shah?

Sa'ud: We do not believe in the thesis that one should rely on an external power for internal stability. This would be a strange and unhealthy concept.

SPIEGEL: Washington has replied to the events in Iran and in Afghanistan with the so-called Carter doctrine in which the Gulf region for practical purposes is declared a sphere of U.S. interest. Does this suit you?

Sa'ud: It is the result of a struggle for the balance of terror. We hope to keep our region out of this struggle, and we want to stand up for this position jointly with the states of this region. To a certain degree we have succeeded thus far in doing so, and we hope to be successful in the future as well.

SPIEGEL: Prior to Afghanistan you seemed to be prepared to improve your relations with Moscow, now you are moving closer to the United States again. Granted, unlike Somalia and Oman you refused military bases on your territory to the Americans, yet, what is perhaps more important, in 1979 you bought war material worth $5 billion in the United States. Is this one-sided dependency on the United States not dangerous, with or without U.S. bases in the country?

Sa'ud: First of all, the $5 billion was not spent exclusively on weapons. This amount includes the costs for the entire infrastructure for training, maintenance, medical care and so forth.

SPIEGEL: What percentage do you spend on arms?

Sa'ud: Unless I am mistaken it is just about 20 to 25 percent of the aforementioned $5 billion, but you did not let me finish. We are not at all one-sided in our arms policy. We do not buy our equipment exclusively in the United States, but also in Europe. We hope that you will pass on our wish to buy arms in Germany as well.

SPIEGEL: What do you need this enormous armament for?

Sa'ud: You yourself have pointed out how insecure the situation is here. We believe that we must protect ourselves. Unfortunately the independence of this region is being directly threatened militarily at present.

SPIEGEL: Are reports true that you plan to buy the latest U.S. missiles and arm a belt of bases along your southern border with them?

Sa'ud: I have never heard of that. It may have been written in the newspapers, but definitely not in the plans of the Government of Saudi Arabia.

SPIEGEL: The shah always claimed that he needed strong armaments--and particularly a strong navy--to keep the Hormuz Strait open for the oil tankers. In the event of a showdown between the United States and Iran, which is now conceivable, this strong Iranian Navy could block the strait. What would you do in such a case?

Sa'ud: We firmly believe in the freedom of shipping in the Gulf. The only threat to the free flow of goods and oil--both are equally important--will emerge if we tolerate an intervention from outside or a conflict of the superpowers in this region.

SPIEGEL: For the purpose of being prepared for a closure of the Hormuz Strait you are building a crude oil pipeline clear across the Arabian Peninsula from the Gulf to the Red Sea. Has it been completed yet?

Sa'ud: No, but it is true that we have a plan to transport oil and natural gas to the coast of the Red Sea and to set up an industrial center there. It will be completed within the next 5 years.

SPIEGEL: The strongest military power in the south of the Arabian Peninsula does not consist of your allies, Oman and North Yemen, but communist South Yemen in which thousands of Soviet, Cuban and East German advisers are reportedly at work. Isn't this a hotbed of danger for you?

Sa'ud: First of all, the South Yemenis deny being a communist regime. Second, we hope that our policy of not allowing any superpowers in the region is shared by all states of the Arabian Peninsula.

SPIEGEL: Was this the reason why you recently received the foreign minister of South Yemen in Riyadh?

Sa'ud: He was here, and we talked frankly and in detail. We hope to come to an understanding that we must strengthen our independence and our cooperation.

SPIEGEL: Cooperation--even if South Yemen tries to seize North Yemen which has been pampered with Western economic assistance?

Sa'ud: There is a position of the Arab states against the forcible occupation of North Yemeni territories, and this position stands.

SPIEGEL: The conservative Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has also come closer politically to the country which had been its wildest antagonist until recently: radical Iraq. How do you feel in this unholy alliance?

Sa'ud: We were not at all surprised by this rapprochement. It is based on Arab solidarity in which the form of government is totally considered the internal affair of the respective country. We have a common identity, a common future and common interests.

SPIEGEL: Common interests with extreme leftist Iraq? Possibly vis-a-vis Iran? You as well as Iraq have a Shi'ite minority in the country, which perhaps would like to emulate the revolution of Shi'ite Iran. Did you have revolts in the Shi'ite north of your country?

Sa'ud: All countries of the region have their minorities. The instability, however, is not based on conflicts with these minorities. It was ethnic rather than political problems which played the most important role in that respect. But please do not forget this: Our Shi'ites are a regligious and not an ethnic minority.

SPIEGEL: Regardless of the minority problem, the extreme modernization has provoked an explosive religious reaction in Iran. Saudi Arabia finds itself facing the same problems. Could, therefore the same reaction by the traditionalist forces also occur here?

Sa'ud: No, our modernization does not mean that we change our identity. Only if you try to change the identity of a people will contradictions and conflicts ensue. We are firmly convinced that our government will maintain the morale while simultaneously improving the standard of living of the country's citizens.

SPIEGEL: Your country today seems to be one enormous construction site. Aren't you worried that a simple bedouin family might feel psychically raped by the sudden appearance of this technology?

Sa'ud: Naturally there are tensions. But the bedouin is a creature who adapts himself very quickly. The effects of modernization will be constructive and not destructive.

SPIEGEL: The shah probably believed the same, but in the meantime Islam has gained a force as never before in modern history since the Turkish hoards stormed Europe. As a protector of the Islamic ho[illegible]places don't you consider the renaissance of Islam in another country as a competit[illegible] enterprise?

Sa'ud: You must know that our country experienced such a religious renaissance 100 years earlier: It is not an invention of the 20th century. The new thing about it is the recognition of this fact by the West.

SPIEGEL: You had the shocking events here in the mosque at Mecca. That was a collision between traditional forces and the modern world.

Sa'ud: No, not even that. As is known, people have concepts: and as is known, they try to prove their concepts regardless of the circumstances. There were the events in Iran and the attack on the mosque in Mecca, so the same symptoms existing there would have to exist here also.

SPIEGEL: Were these not the same symptoms?

Sa'ud: The history of Islam demonstrates that at every change of the century there is an extremist movement like that of the mahdists. The events in Mecca have to do more with that than with the problems of a bedouin who now lives in a nice house instead of a tent. Naturally he is more open toward the world now, he sees more people, he knows more Germans than 20 years ago: But he still lives in his own world.

SPIEGEL: What was most surprising about the Mecca events was the fact that your army, one of the best equipped armies of the region, needed 2 weeks to overpower the occupiers of the mosque. Why?

Sa'ud: That was due to many things: First, there was no security service in the mosque because of the character of the building and the great number of people who move in and out of there. Second, at the moment of the attack some 50,000 to 60,000 people were in the mosque whose lives we had to spare. Third, every attack could have damaged the mosque. Our government wanted to capture as many attackers as possible because we wanted to learn exactly what their motives were and whether foreign interference was involved. So 2 weeks was not much at all.

SPIEGEL: Allegedly special units of the French gendarmes helped you to overpower the occupiers. Is that correct?

Sa'ud: It is absolutely untrue.

SPIEGEL: A fundamentalist Islamic reaction against the modernization of your country could also be caused by the Western way of life of the upper class, by corruption, bribery and mismanagement. What are you doing against such outgrowths?

Sa'ud: In this region one cannot speak of an upper class and a lower class because we never had this class consciousness here as in the West. We consider ourselves a mature society based on the family and on religion. Corruption is an evil that must be fought, regardless of whether a society experiences fast or slow changes.

SPIEGEL: On the other hand, however, the developing progressive middle class could feel irritated by the old political system of the country. The house of the monarch rules the country like a family enterprise: there are no parties, no elections, no parliament, no trade unions. When will this sytem change?

Sa'ud: One cannot judge our political system by seeing whether it is static or dynamic. It is plainly an Islamic system, based on the Shariah which includes a division of responsibilities between the government and the citizens.

SPIEGEL: Your Highness, your best ally against internal as well as external dangers until recently was Egyptian President as-Sadat. Obviously he expects Saudi Arabia to be the first Arab country to support his Camp David agreement with Israel or at least to tolerate it. In fact, you first maintained restraint with regard to commentaries on Camp David, but later you condemned it and eventually you condemned it almost as sharply as the radical enemies of As-Sadat: Algeria, Libya and Syria. Why?

Sa'ud: At no time have we indicated in any way to anybody that we would agree to a formula such as that of Camp David. We have not kept our opinion from everybody in the region. We did not agree with Camp David from the very beginning; because we knew that it would lead only to a bilateral agreement between Egypt and Israel, and that Israel would refuse to solve the Palestinian problem.

SPIEGEL; Now the decisive date of 26 May is nearing, but an agreement on autonomy for the Palestinians has not been achieved. The Israeli-Egyptian negotiations seem to have reached a dead end. Would not the Egyptian pressure on Israel have been much stronger if such powerful states as yours had supported As-Sadat instead of abandoning him?

Sa'ud: The contrary is correct. Had President as-Sadat pursued his policy in agreement with the Arab states, he would have been in a position much earlier to achieve a result with Israel than by doing it on his own.

SPIEGEL: If As-Sadat fails to bring about even the slightest autonomy for the Palestinians, and if he then returns as a repentent sinner into the arms of his Arab brothers, would you forgive him?

Sa'ud: Forgive? We would thank him for it.

SPIEGEL: The whole of history has no example of a successfully implemented boycott. Do you really believe that you could bring the Mideast conflict closer to some sort of a solution by boycotting Egypt, which with its 40 million inhabitants is the most densely populated Arab state?

Sa'ud: We have not imposed a boycott against Egypt.

SPIEGEL: Beg your pardon?

Sa'ud: We are boycotting Israel; and after the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel, we have taken protective economic measures. We do not want Israel to make a thrust into the Arab world through Egypt.

SPIEGEL: Even if, eventually, some sort of formula for autonomy for the Palestinians on the West Bank of the Jordan should come about, the Jerusalem problem seems to be completely insoluble. Syria's President al-Asad, Moscow's best Mideast ally next to South Yemen, held it against you during his recent visit to Riyadh that it would be better to defend Islam in Jerusalem than in Kabul. How did you answer him?

Sa'ud. We have never made a difference in viewing the Palestinian problem or the Afghanistan problem. The difference in both cases is merely that in one case an Israeli occupation is involved, while in the other case it is a Soviet occupation. But it remains an occupation--an occupation of an independent Islamic country--a clear denial of a people's right to self-determination. Taking up a certain position in one case does not give one the right to take a certain position in the other case. . . .

SPIEGEL: What do you mean by that?

Sa'ud: That the Soviet Union cannot claim for itself the right to intervene in Afghanistan just because it supports the Palestinian cause. If the Americans demand an independent Afghanistan, they do not, therefore, have the right to support Israel in occupying Palestinian territory.

SPIEGEL: The Israelis always maintain that access to the holy places in Jerusalem for every religious community has never been as free as under their rule. Your late King Faysal did not want to die before having prayed in Jerusalem. What keeps a Saudi Arabian statesman and prince--or merely a Saudi Arabian citizen--from praying in Jerusalem?

Sa'ud: We do not want to pray in a Jerusalem occupied by Zionists.

SPIEGEL: In other words, you could pray in Jerusalem if you wanted to.

Sa'ud: By accepting the occupation by the Israelis, naturally. They would even like that very much. But a continuous occupation of Jerusalem by a Zionist structure that considers Palestine an exclusive Jewish homeland, violates the most holy feelings, not only of every Muslim, but also of every Christian.

SPIEGEL: What do you want to do with the "Zionist structure?" Do you believe that Israelis and Arab Palestinians could still live side by side on the same territory?

Sa'ud: Who demands exclusiveness here? Not the Palestinians! They much rather demanded a secular state where religion would not play a role. These are facts.

SPIEGEL: The practical problem, particularly for the Europeans, seems to be where should the homeland right of the Palestinians, which you accepted, be carried out.

Sa'ud: That would be a good question to ask Mr Begin, because one never knows which areas he wants to have.

SPIEGEL: Good, but the Palestinians do not exactly define what they want to get back.

Sa'ud: No, No; they define it. The Palestinians were in Palestine, therefore they have a right to return to this country.

SPIEGEL: Does it mean to their country, even if it was within the borders of Israel prior to 1967?

Sa'ud: Why not? If Israel can claim the right for itself to establish settlements everywhere in Palestine, why should the Arabs not have the same right, the Arabs who were originally there?

SPIEGEL: Back to the situation not merely prior to 1967, but even prior to 1948--that is also a form of maximalism.

Sa'ud: We should never delude ourselves with regard to the intentions of the Israelis. They do not want to have a peace settlement, they do not even want to have the Camp David agreements where President as-Sadat has ignored all reservations to bring about a compromise with Israel. Begin has not changed since the time he lived in Poland. Today, with an Egyptian-Israeli agreement in his pocket, he still has the same opinion as in earlier times in Poland.

SPIEGEL: That may be so. But what is the situation among the Arabs? President Carter once remarked that no Arab statesman truly wants to have a Palestinian state, because it would only be a source of unrest in the region.

Sa'ud: Who was supposed to have said that?

SPIEGEL: U.S. President Carter.

Sa'ud: We can speak only for Saudi Arabia. We have always clearly stated our opinion about a Palestinian community, and we have also said that this must include the right of the Palestinians to return to their homeland.

SPIEGEL: Today there is a strange dependence between the Arab and the European worlds: you keep the Western economy alive by selling us more oil than would be economically sensible for you to sell. In exchange you want to have Western support on the Palestinian problem. How long are you willing to keep the Western economy alive if the West does not succeed in making the Israelis do something they consider a threat to their security; namely, to accept a Palestinian state?

Sa'ud: The only gleam of hope in the present situation is the fact that the West is becoming aware of the significance of the situation, in other words, the injustice being done to the Palestinians. The great veil over the eyes of the West is beginning to lift. You come from a country that has suffered from the fact that no peace has been achieved. Injustice can never persist, it cries out for a new war.

SPIEGEL: Once again: How long do you plan to keep the Western economy alive?

Sa'ud: To state it clearly: We are interested in peace which will permit real cooperation and not merely trade relations according to the motto: You give me an agreement, I give you more barrels of oil. No, we firmly believe in the common interest of Arabia and Europe to cooperate politically and economically in a most satisfactory way on a safe and decent basis. But if there is war and if our sons are killed, the Arabs will use all weapons.

SPIEGEL: Should no peace agreement be achieved, that does not necessarily mean that war has to break out.

Sa'ud: That is not correct. If there is no peace in the Middle East, there will be war. It would be self-delusion to believe that we could live in a purgatory.

SPIEGEL: Your highness, we thank you for this talk.

GOVERNMENT PROTESTS UK TELEVISION PROGRAM

LD112156 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2105 GMT 11 Apr 80

[Text of statement issued by the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs; date not given]

[Text] The Government of Saudi Arabia recognizes the importance of free speech and the free expression of views in the United Kingdom. It fully appreciates the traditions of this old, established, respected country; it is not the intention of the Saudi Government to interfere in these matters.

However, the program in question was in fact no more than a strident mockery of and a deep insult to the true religion of Islam and its true and tolerant Shari'ah; 600 million Muslims throughout the world are proud to adhere to this true faith. The program was no more than a cheap attack on the lofty ideals and the values and traditions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the heart of the living Muslim world.

The program, after all, is but television material which, under the pretext of knowledge and claims of objectivity, intended to misrepresent facts through sensationalism and fabrication. The program therefore lacked objectivity and any morsel of truth. On the contrary, it was full of hatred and harm, and leveled serious accusations which harm, without any justification, the dignity of a number of citizens and some prominent personalities in Saudi Arabia. Out of all this, in our view, the program stooped very low, to levels which are far from the levels of truth and fairness which the information media in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have called for and have long since adopted as their own.

We have no doubt at all that the program, in addition to the fact that it does no credit to its producers, does not help the development of the relations of amity, friendship and mutual benefit which traditionally link the governments and peoples of both countries. It is really regrettable that a company which has a television concession in Britain should screen such trivialities, which harm a friendly country.

AS-SADAT INTERVIEWED BY ISRAELI NEWSPAPER

TA161900 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 16 Apr 80 pp 30, 31, 32, 33

[Second part of interview with Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat by HA'OLAM HAZE editor-in-chief Uri Avneri on 2 April in the presidential villa near the Nile, north of Cairo]

[Text] Question: I would like to ask you: Could what happened in 1977 have happened in 1971?

Answer: No, because...

Question, interrupting: Had Golda Me'ir then given a positive answer, what would have happened?

Answer: I requested it at the time. I asked that Israel withdraw from the territories it had conquered in 1967, and that, as a gesture, Israel withdraw to the passes (namely: the Mitla and Giddi passes) and that [UN envoy] Gunar Jarring make shuttle trips until a mutual peace agreement is reached.

I was ready to sign. That was the first time, after 22 years, that an Arab leader publicly announced: I am prepared to sign a peace agreement with Israel.

Certainly, we could have prevented the October war if that were the case. The October war would not have occurred at all.

Question: Is it true that you made your final decision (to launch a war) after you had learned what the Labor Party's platform was, a platform which included the decision to establish the town of Yamit?

Answer: No. But let me tell you, Uri: Yamit was one of the major motivations for my decision regarding the October war, because that was part of the humiliation, not only of the defeat--to establish a new town on my land. That was one of the important reasons.

Question: What will happen in Yamit after Israel returns the territory?

Answer: I am planning to continue to maintain the town, with a port. I intend to build a port there and to have at least 100,000 inhabitants there, at least.

Immediately after the town returns to our sovereignty, we will populate it!

Question: That will be a crucial psychological moment in Israel, when the television will show the Egyptians entering into the houses in Yamit. God knows how many speeches I made (at the Knesset) against establishing Yamit!

Two weeks ago we had a debate at the Knesset and one of the ministers--Minister Nisim--said that there is currently a 110 MK consensus--out of the total of 120--that a Palestinian state will never be established and that we will never return to the previous borders. I interjected, saying: Allow me to remind you that there was a 110 MK consensus at the time that the Rafah approaches would never be returned to Egypt.

Answer: (laughing) True.

Begin told me during one of our meetings, in Aswan, no, rather it was in Alexandria, that the Sinai settlements would be buried along with him, will go down to his grave.

Question: He also declared once, prior to your initiative, that he would like to be buried there, in one of the settlements in northern Sinai.

Allow me to ask you a different question: Would you have come to Jerusalem in November 1977 had there not been, prior to that, the talk between Hasan at-Tuhami and Moshe Dayan, in which you were promised that Israel is prepared to return all of the Sinai?

Answer: It has nothing to do with my visit. No connection whatsoever.

Let me tell you how it happened: In February 1977 I visited Carter for the first time, merely a month after he was sworn in as President. We agreed that the peace process, begun by Nixon-Kissinger and Ford-Kissinger before, should be continued. At the time, when we launched that process, it was agreed that a comprehensive arrangement should be sought after the second disengagement agreement.

Well, we achieved the second disengagement agreement during the Ford-Kissinger term, and when I met with Carter, after his election, I found out that Henry Kissinger had thoroughly briefed him. Carter told me: I understand you had agreed with Ford that the next step would be achieving a comprehensive arrangement, i.e., Geneva. I said: Yes.

We began the preparations. That was in February, 1977, as I told you. By the end of summer, 1977, it was completely clear that the Soviet Union--together with Syria and the PLO--was maneuvering not to convene the Geneva conference, because it knew that the only element which could influence Israel is the United States, not the Soviet Union or any other power. The Soviets were afraid that the agreement that would be reached would be attributed to the United States, especially in light of the fact that I had good relations with the United States. Egypt is the key to the whole matter, and we achieved the disengagement agreements--both the first and the second--together (with the United States).

It was clear to me that my colleagues in the Arab world are not interested in a Geneva conference and were merely trying to gain time. Carter felt it, too.

It was also clear to me that since this was so, we would return to a state of "no war and no peace," which is very dangerous for us, but very pleasant for the Israeli hawks.

When it became perfectly clear to me, at the time...

Excuse me, Uri, I had forgotten your question.

Question: We were talking about the connection with the At-Tuhami-Dayan talk.

Answer: Ah, yes.

By the end of the summer, when I discovered that the peace process was reaching a stalemate because one of the major participants was manipulating it to prevent the Geneva conference from convening at all for the simple reason that the Soviet Union did not want to give the United States any points in its favor and wanted to have its own share of the business, I sent At-Tuhami to meet with Dayan, for a conversation on the Geneva conference.

Question: Is that so?

Answer: The Geneva conference. On that and no other issue, for the simple reason that until October, until the end of October and the beginning of November, I had no notion of an initiative and a visit to Jerusalem.

Let me tell you this: During my conversation with President Carter in February 1977, when we held the first discussion, the second item on our agenda was: "The essence of peace." That was its title: the essence of peace.

When President Carter asked me: "Why won't you have normal relations with Israel? I told him: "I began my first peace initiative in 1971 and had the United States and Israel listened to me then, the October war would not have broken out.

"However," I added, "let me tell you, with all sincerity, Mr President: After 50 years, four wars, mobilization, hatred, bitterness, I cannot come suddenly to my people and tell them: Let us establish normal relations with Israel while it is holding Arab territory!

"The most I can do is that, if we reach an agreement on withdrawal from the areas conquered in 1967, I would be prepared in 5 years--let us set the date in the agreement and say: On this and that date, after 5 years, we will sit together and establish normal relations."

That was in February, 1977. My initiative took place in November, 1977. Look at the change that has occured in the meanwhile.

That was my opinion, that I cannot bring my people to establish normal relations with Israel. I myself was brought up on land mobilized against Israel. I myself.

When it became completely clear to me that there were maneuvers to prevent the convening of the Geneva conference, I sent At-Tuhami to meet with Dayan. If Dayan or anyone else says that something else other than Geneva was discussed there, they are wrong.

Not at all. At that time, there was nothing else on my mind at all.

If someone had said to me then--that was in October--you will do this in November I would have told him: You are crazy (laughs aloud). What, me go to Jerusalem? Really!

No, there was no connection whatsoever.

Question: Then when did you conceive the idea?

Answer: The idea of the initiative? After Ceausescu convinced me that Begin is sincere and that, secondly, he is strong enough. That was when I began planning.

Prior to my visit to Ceausescu, I received a personal letter from Carter. In his letter, hand-written, he set forth the details of the situation. I did not need Carter to explain to me what the situation was, because I live here, in this area.

Carter understood that what was happening among us, the Arabs, was far worse than what was happening between us and Israel. This was the conclusion Carter had reached.

I began to think about my reply to Carter, and I wrote: "A courageous action is necessary."

Question: Did you say that in the letter?

Answer: Yes, in my own handwriting, in my letter to Carter. What bold operation? I had not known yet. It was in my subconscious. When I read that Begin visited Ceausescu I immediately asked the Romanian president if I could go to visit him.

Do you know that there is a district called Sinai there--the district of Sinaia in Romania?

Question: Really?

Answer: Yes, there is a district called Sinaia there. Why is it called so?--because the Romanian king built two monasteries there along the lines of St. Catherin's. Therefore, it is called Sinaia in Romania.

This district is mountainous and green. There are mountains there as in the Tirol in Austria. This is one of the most beautiful places in the whole world. I love it, also because it is called Sinaia.

There are also two palaces built there by the king. One is a palace for guests and when I visit Romania I always go there alone for 2 days or so because of my love for the green mountains. It is wonderful.

Well, I immediately sent a letter to Ceausescu. He answered that I would be welcome whenever I wanted to come and I went.

After Ceausescu convinced me I began thinking about the details of my initiative, that "daring action" of mine about which I wrote to President Carter. Things were not worked out at the time.

Question: In Romania?

Answer: Not in Romania. No. In Romania it was not yet consolidated.

It had begun to ripen in me, partially, in the skies of Turkey. I was traveling from Romania to Iran at the time to visit the shah. The flight from Bucharest to Tehran lasted about 5 hours. We flew over Turkey, over the Ararat Mountains. I remember looking through the window at the Ararat Mountains since--I do not know whether you know this--it was there that the flood occurred in Noah's time and Noah's ark was there, on Mount Ararat.

However, I had not finalized things before returning to Cairo. I visited the shah, then the king in Saudi Arabia and returned home. There I finalized the idea of my initiative.

Question: I think there is no historical precedent to this at all.

Answer: Not at all.

Question: I wrote at the time that the only thing I could compare this visit to is the first step made by man on the moon.

Answer: Yes.

Question: I would like to pose a hypothetical question to you. What would have happened, in your opinion, if 'Abd an-Nasir lived another 10 years? Would any of this have happened?

Answer: I am sure! I am sure! Something, I cannot say what things would have happened, but something would have happened.

And why?

You remember, the year he died he began directing his dialog straight to the U.S. President, for the first time since our defeat. On May 1, 1970, the year in which he died, he said in his speech on 1 May, on Workers' Day: I call on Mr Nixon this and that, you should come and do your bit, and if you cannot--please, tell us openly you are unable to do this.

And why? Immediately after our defeat in 1967--you may have read this in my memoirs--we gave the Soviets the right to speak in our name. Why? They were always doubtful. Suspiciousness is a second nature of every Russian. You must have the same problem with the Russian Jews. This is their second nature, both under the Czar's rule and under the communists' rule.

Immediately after our defeat we felt the Soviets were very sensitive about our contacts with the United States. An-Nasir decided this (to let the Soviets speak in Egypt's name) and was the only one in the leadership who knew about this. He could not tell this to others for certain reasons. We allowed the Soviets to speak in our name.

The Soviets were then the only ones who supplied us with arms and we had to rebuild our forces after this defeat. Therefore 'Abd an-Nasir decided to calm them and free them from any doubts. He told them: You take care of our case with the Americans and anything you achieve we are prepared to accept.

However, on 1 May 'Abd an-Nasir called on Nixon publicly and formally. Why?

The Soviets treated him according to their nature, in vicious manner. Two months before he died 'Abd an-Nasir returned from the Soviet Union after a 21-day stay there. I served as acting president then and shot down 12 of your Phantom planes at that time. This was called "the Phantoms massacre."

Well, when 'Abd an-Nasir returned from this visit I told him in the car, on the way from the airport to his house: "You were there for 21 days. It seems you have arranged everything there and reached full agreement with the Soviets."

He answered: Anwar, the Soviet Union--this he said in English--is a hopeless case [last three words printed in English]. I received the Rogers initiative in the Kremlin, in the presence of all the Soviet leaders!"

He told that Brezhnev was very nervous, sprang from his seat and asked 'Abd an-Nasir: "Are you ready to accept the Americans' solution?" 'Abd an-Nasir answered him: "After you have treated me the way you have, I am prepared to accept even the devil's solution!"

Thus he accepted the Rogers plan in the Kremlin while I, here as his substitute, rejected the Rogers plan and declared this definitely. However, when 'Abd an-Nasir returned and told me the story I said: "We have no choice but to accept this initiative."

Question: I listened once to an interview 'Abd an-Nasir granted to a LE MONDE journalist in February 1970. The interview has never been published since 'Abd an-Nasir, after granting the journalist a very long interview, asked him not to publish most of it. The interview lasted for 2 or 3 hours. I listened to the recording. 'Abd an-Nasir said he was prepared to make peace with Israel. The journalist asked him: "Does this include diplomatic and commercial relations as well?" The president answered: "After a while, yes." This is recorded.

Answer: I am sure that if he had lived he would have done this because of the treatment of the Soviet Union. The Soviets, as you know, are dogmatic. Everything with them is black and white; you are either their agent or against them.

Question: All the communists are like this. This is part of their mentality.

Answer: Yes, the American John Foster Dulles was also this way.

Question: Mr President, what would you want to say to the Israeli peace movement? What should it do, in your opinion, besides changing the government in Israel which you cannot say?

Answer: Pardon!

Question: Besides changing the government in Israel. This you cannot say yourself, can you?

Answer: (bursting in loud laughter) No! No! This is an internal affair of yours! I would like to say this to them: We must not stop in the middle of the road! We must continue, especially after what has already been done by the Israeli and Egyptian peoples--the act that was registered in history as a turning point!

Question: Thank you very much, Mr President. (Here the conversation should have ended but President as-Sadat continued to talk and returned to the first point raised in the conversation)

Answer: This will be a surprise to many, both in Israel and in Egypt, that I would like to go to the Knesset and tell its members: We have normalization now; you have an ambassador in Cairo. Be relaxed; what are you doing?

Question: A new beginning is needed.

Answer: In Israel.

Question: In Israel. The new stage has ended.

Two weeks ago I told Mr Begin in the Knesset: As a friend, I advise you to resign on 26 February, when the Israeli ambassador submits his credentials to the Egyptian president. This is a stop on the way. This is the end of a stage. What you did is a historical achievement. You were Israel's prime minister when this happened but in the next stage--the Palestinian stage--you cannot function. You will remain in history as the man who made peace with the first big Arab nation. Let somebody else carry on from here.

I did not manage to convince him.

Answer: (As-Sadat laughing) Well, if I were in his place...you really pulled his leg. Since, to stop in the middle of the road...the one who will conclude the peacemaking process will reap all glory and Begin will gain no part in this glory if he stops in the middle of the road.

Question: If you succeed in persuading Begin to give the Palestinians real autonomy you are a greater hero than you may think.

Answer: I do not think myself a hero, Uri, never!

Question: But you are a hero. Anybody could begin a war, but very very few could do what you did in November 1977.

Many leaders launched wars in very difficult situations and made difficult situations in war time. However, to make such a decision for peace is very unique. This has no real precedent in history. Nixon's visit in China is nothing in comparison.

Answer: You could have done the same if any of you came immediately after the 1967 war. This could have been successful, even with 'Abd an-Nasir.

Question: I am sure of that. I always thought 'Abd an-Nasir was ready for peace, perhaps because we were in the war together.

We had a common friend then. I do not know if you are familiar with the name--Yeruham Kohen. He was Yig'al Allon's aide-de-camp when Allon was the commander of the southern front.

When the Egyptian force in Fallujah was surrounded Allon sent Kohen to a meeting with 'Abd an-Nasir in order to discuss technical matters--the evacuation of the corpses left in the area between the lines. The two became great friends. Yeruham told me the entire story. This is a wondeful story.

One day, when 'Abd an-Nasir was very depressed he told Yeruham: "We shall never get out of here. We shall die as heroes, but we will not get out of this place!" Yeruham--he is Yemenite, a very nice man--told 'Abd an-Nasir: "Ya Jamal, do not despair. You will all get out of here and will have children still."

After the war, when Yeruham Kohen served on the Israeli-Egyptian Armistice Committee, the Egyptian representative told him: "A boy has just been born to your friend 'Abd an-Nasir." Yeruham sent him a present, via the armistice committee, and 'Abd an-Nasir thanked him and sent him a package of sweets.

When Gen Muhammad Najib assumed power (in the 1950 revolution in Egypt) and we did not know the members of the new regime yet--we only knew Najib's name--Yeruham Kohen telephoned me and said: "Write an article on Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir. I am certain he is the real leader."

Answer: I know.

Question: You do?

Answer: I heard about the man, I am sure.

Question: And so I was the first man who wrote an article about 'Abd an-Nasir and disclosed he was the man who stood behind Najib and made decisions.

After 'Abd an-Nasir assumed power officially he sent Yeruham Kohen an invitation to come to Egypt. Yeruham went to Moshe Sharet, asking him for permission to go to Egypt and Sharet told him: "If 'Abd an-Nasir wants to invite an Israeli, let him address our Foreign Ministry and we will decide who will travel. This is how this business ended.

Answer: As-Sadat (astonished): What? Really?

Question: Yes. This kind of psychology was prevalent then.

Because of this story I am sure 'Abd an-Nasir thought about some initiative (for the achievement of peace with Israel) before 1956 or rather, before February 1955.

Answer: I am sure of that.

Question: Well, I am very grateful to you for dedicating so much time to me.

Answer: All right Uri.

Question: And I hope to see you in the Knesset shortly. Goodbye.

CAIRO RADIO: NO PROPOSAL ON VENUE OF AUTONOMY TALKS RECEIVED

NC162133 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Text] Egypt held contacts today with the United States concerning the upcoming autonomy negotiations. Our correspondent has learned that the Foreign Ministry has not yet received any official proposal from the United States specifying the venue of the autonomy talks.

GOVERNMENT BREAKS OFF ALL TIES WITH REJECTIONIST STATES

NC161925 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Text] Our correspondent has learned that the Arab Republic of Egypt has decided to break off all ties with the regimes that participated in the Tripoli conference [of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front].

This evening the Foreign Ministry recalled the official in charge of Egyptian interests in Algiers to Cairo. It is well-known that there are no official in charge of Egyptian interests in Libya, Syria or the PDRY.

An official spokesman at the prime minister's office issued a statement. He said: At a time when Egypt is continuing its efforts with all courage, earnestness and determination to achieve the Arab nation's pan-Arab aims and to enable the Palestinian people to proceed on the road toward exercising their right to self-determination, certain Arab regimes are still trying to conceal their inability and negativity by continuing to pursue the policy of false slogans and futile outbiddings which was behind the catastrophes that befell our nation and the setbacks of the Arab struggle.

The latest Tripoli conference is a new example of their fumbling, contradiction and lack of responsibility. The conference's feeble resolutions are a new confirmation that those who try to isolate themselves from Egypt are unable to make positive moves toward regaining Arab rights. They are subjected to policies dictated to them by interests contradictory to Arab interests. This reveals the facts not only to the whole world but to the other Arab countries, which must realize that those who call themselves the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front are trying to impose positions on these Arab countries that will place them in a situation that contradicts their people's aspirations to establish peace based on justice.

The official source [as heard] in the prime minister's office concluded his statement by saying: Egypt will not pay attention to these abortive attempts. Egypt will remain strong with its people and with the Arab nation's peoples, who are rallying around Egypt, and will pursue its course to regain all the Arab rights.

CAIRO ARAB LEAGUE PALESTINE OFFICE CONDEMNS ISRAELI POLICY

NC151751 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr--The Palestinian Affairs Department at the Arab League in Cairo has warned against the Israeli schemes to end the remaining Arab presence and control over Jerusalem and the towns and villages surrounding it.

A report made by the department condemned the Israeli attempts to Judaize the city of Hebron and its suburbs and the Israeli Government's decision to take control of the Arab Jerusalem electricity company.

The report warned that this decision is aimed at expelling 400 Arab families, which will facilitate the implementation of Israel's "greater Jerusalem plan" by annexing Arab Jerusalem and surrounding villages in Jerusalem province. It will also end what is left of Arab control of electricity distribution throughout the West Bank and isolate Jerusalem from the West Bank. This powerplant provides electricity to Remallah, Bethlehem, Jericho and their villages.

The report asserted that this Israeli policy will obstruct the desired peace and foil the current efforts to establish a comprehensive, just and permanent settlement to the Middle East conflict.

EGYPT-ISRAEL-GAZA-WEST BANK LAND ROUTE OPENED

NC151710 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] The land route between Egypt and the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and Israel was opened today.

Ambassador Taha al-Majdhub, chairman of the Egyptian-Israeli normalization committee, has stated that Egypt's aim is to help facilitate the movement of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza to Egypt.

STUDENTS REPORT MUSLIM-CHRISTIAN CLASHES IN AL-MINYA

NC151708 Paris AFP in English 1656 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Excerpt] Cairo, Apr 15 (AFP)--Members of the Muslim and Coptic-Orthodox communities clashed last week in Al-Minya, 240 kms (150 miles) south of here, leaving two dead and 35 injured, Muslim fundamentalist student groups said today.

The Islamic brotherhoods, modelled on the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood Organisation, today distributed leaflets around Cairo news agencies saying the clashes were to severe that security forces were obliged to open fire on the crowd, clamp a curfew on [word indistinct] town and close the university until the end of this school year.

The fundamentalist students, whose influence in Egyptian universities has greatly increased over the last couple of years, said isolated incidents rapidly engulfed the whole town. The people were arrested, they said.

Al-Minya Parliament Message

NC152100 Cairo MENA in English 2040 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] Al-Minya, Egypt, Apr 15--The Popular Council (provincial parliament) of Al-Minya Governorate in southern Egypt today [words indistinct] President Anwar as-Sadat expressing support for his peace efforts and condemning any act against national unity.

The message called for severe punishment against acts that might jeopardize national unity.

PRESIDENT HUSAYN CRITICIZES IRANIAN LEADERS IN NINEVEH SPEECH

GF160817 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1403 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Speech by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn at the "12th Nineveh festival" in Nineveh Governorate--live]

[Excerpts] O great people, [cheers] brother citizens of the valiant Nineveh Governorate: [indistinct chants] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Do not think that those who died fighting for God are dead, for they are alive in the Lord's presence. [verse from the Koran]

Brothers, let us stand together and observe a 1-minute silence in memory of the martyrs of Mosul and the Arab nation [who died] for its principled causes, honor and beliefs. [cheers and a pause]

O great people, in these immortal days, as you celebrate spring--the season of abundance and blessing, the season of giving--as we celebrate the good days we should remember the black and difficult days experienced by our beloved Iraq and glorious Arab nation.

Today, you are celebrating sweet days in the protection of your revolution and party. However, in 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1964 and until July 1968, the Iraqi people were living through black and difficult days. At the time, Ash-Shu'ubiyah [an anti-Arab movement in Islamic history] wrongly believed that it could harm great Iraq. But what was the fate of Ash-Shu'ubiyah? Its followers are scattered and their influence is outside our borders. They are no longer among us. There are the old Shu'ubis...time passes and once again the Shu'ubis imagine they can achieve in 1980 what they failed to achieve in 1959. [prolonged indistinct shouts]

Brothers, when we talk about Ash-Shu'ubiyah we are not talking about individuals in our society who hate Arabism and Iraq. We are talking about the influence of the great powers and attempts by the great powers to harm your revolution, great country, heritage, beliefs and glories. They believe they can take Iraq back to its former state of poverty and humiliation. But never! I said to your brothers in As-Suwayrah in Al-Kut Governorate that the forces of darkness cannot read your faces, because they do not see them well, because their eyes cannot tell the faces well. We are telling them the same thing now from Nineveh Governorate. The people are the same people. When I am here it is the same as when I am in As-Suwayrah, Maysan, Karbala' or An-Najaf. There are the same sentiments, the same nobility, the same resolution and the same determination to build great Iraq, the solid base of the nobel Arab nation.

I would like to sent a tape recording of the voices and images of the masses in the governorates of Karbala', An-Najaf, Maysan, Al-Basrah, Nineveh and Baghdad to Carter, Begin and Khomeyni so they can see and hear and consider whether or not they can defeat these people. [indistinct chants] However, some of them read and read and do not believe their eyes, and some of them neither read nor see. Khomeyni neither reads nor sees. He does not see--he does not allow himself to watch television, listen to the radio or read the newspapers. One cannot say how he can give his opinion on people, how he can give his opinion on revolutions, how he can solve the problems of his people and how he can make his people happy. We had hoped that the poor Iranian people, who have suffered injustice under their rulers throughout their long history, would be happy after the shah's departure. But it seems that they have to go a long way to achieve happiness. It will also be some time before they find their right path in life.

This mummy Khomeyni appealed to the Iraqi people 3 days ago. He said the Iraqi people must go up to the roofs of their houses and protest against their government, because this government is not of the people. [cheers and chants]. As you know, not a single Iraqi went up to the roof of his house. Khomeyni imagined that all of the Iraqi people in Nineveh, An-Najaf, Karbala', Al-Basrah and Al-Anbar went up to their roofs at his orders. [prolonged chants]

Brothers, we had truly hoped that the Iranian people would find the right path, and confirm--contrary to the black pictures of relations between the Arabs and Persians that have been recorded in past history--that this time the Iranian people have the opportunity to give a new example of relations between the Arabs and all Iranians, and between Arabs and Persians in particular. Regrettably, however, Khomeyni and his tyrannical clique that exercises power over the Iranian people have given the worst and darkest examples. They harm only themselves by this action, because those who work against the truth and contrary to principles ultimately harm only themselves and, of course, their people. [prolonged indistinct chants] Let us return to history, brothers. Let us go back to history for awhile to entertain ourselves.

Before we cite examples from Iraq's history, I want to say that it appears that so far neither our friends nor our enemies know the Iraqi people truly well. Until now they have not known the Iraqi people's nobility and their deep-rooted ties to the land. Until now they have not known that all the Iraqis, Arabs and Kurds love the Arab nation and are prepared to sacrifice for it. I will give you one example. [indistinct chants] As I said to the Iraqi people during the celebration of the 8 February Ramadan revolution, imperialism and its agents, the great powers and the rancorous divide the Iraqi people into different religions, nationalities, sects--you recall I said that all that is left for them to say is that Iraq is also divided into men and women. I said that they do not know that the point that is above all other points, or let us say that there is a central point shared by them all--a point on which they are zealous and do not find any variance or contradiction--and that point is that they are Iraqis, [prolonged cheers] and that they belong to the Arab nation's traditions, heritage, glory and honor and look forward to carrying out their role honorably in the service of the Arab nation.

Let us take an example from modern history, brothers. [prolonged chants] [addressing the crowd] Young men, you will not be able to hear me. I'll give you this example. Listen to me a moment. [continued indistinct chants] Following national independence, following independence from British rule--and in the past the Turks and the Persians used to compete for influence in and control over Iraq--the Turks and the Persians each nominated their own candidate as king of Iraq. The inhabitants of the central Euphrates--and you must give them the credit for this--said that they wanted an Arab ruler, and with their advanced will, supported by all the Iraqi people, they imposed the Arab Faysal I as the first king of Iraq. [cheers]

After all this Khomeyni comes and calls on the Iraqi people, including the inhabitants of the central Euphrates, to go out on the rooftops and protest against their government. [apparently anti-Khomeyni chants] We said the shah had gone and someone else has come. It turned out that it was the same shah but this time wearing a turban.

Some Arab brothers, or to be more precise, some Arab officials [indistinct shouts] --please [to the crowd]--some Arab officials say: "Take it easy with them, take it easy." That is to say, we should let them push our chests, shoulders, and maybe our faces as well. [prolonged indistinct chants] We say to them: "The new Iranian regime, or more correctly the new racist and backward regime, is trying to behave badly." They say to us: "No matter, give them a chance because they are working in a manner that benefits the Arab nation." We ask: "How do they benefit the Arab nation?" They answer by saying that they support the Palestinian cause.

We address these words to the Iranian people--we have washed our hands of the Iranian rulers--we say to the Iranian people: What have they done for the Palestinian cause? What have they done? Wasn't Palestine Arab land? Palestine is occupied Arab land. Occupied by whom? Occupied by a foreigner. This foreigner, be he Jewish or something else, is a foreigner who has occupied Palestine. Now, if they support us on the Palestinian cause, let them return the Arab land which they occupied in 1971, if they are truly for the Palestinian cause. [prolonged indistinct chants]

Once I asked the Palestinians, I asked some leaders of the Palestinian revolution: "Have they done something good to you which we do not know about? Have they given you arms or money?" The Palestinian leaders said: "We have not received from them"--What is the Iranian currency?--"a single tuman, bullet or rifle." Then how do they support the Palestinian cause? They said: "We have broken off relations with Zionism"--because the shah had consular relations with Zionism? Why? Were they the only ones to break off relations with Zionism? All of black Africa has broken off relations with Zionism, and half of black Africa is Christian and not Muslim, and another part is pagan. Did any Muslim state, except two, have relations on the ambassadorial level with the Zionist entity? Consular relations existed with Turkey and Iran. Therefore, that situation was abnormal. They are making a great fuss about rectification of an abnormal situation, and we are expected to let them use our necks as a bridge so that they can realize their dishonorable goals, their aggressive goals against the Arab nation. Is that right? [shouts of "no"; prolonged indistinct chants]

Some time ago Bani-Sadr delivered a strong and tough speech that should frighten you and keep you awake all night...eh?

[Saddam Husayn laughs] In order to demonstrate his strength and bravado, Bani-Sadr said that I was sending intermediaries and that they had rejected them. [indistinct chants] So, in order to deal with them with decisive wisdom and not with false wisdom, I say to Bani-Sadr and to the Iranian people that it is not a bad thing to avoid bad [relations] with the Iranian people. It is not a bad thing to avoid a clash with Iran unless a clash is a patriotic and national duty. When a clash is a patriotic and national duty, we shall wage it in all its forms. [cheers] Who else but us will defend the Arab nation's honor and Iraq's honor and glory? Bani-Sadr is a poor man. He does not know that half of our ancestors have died on horseback. [chants]

Brothers, it suffices to recall our shining history. Every lesson in that history will make every individual in Iraq and every Arab a national hero who would fight tirelessly for scores of years in defense of honor and justice.

In spite of this, we say to Bani-Sadr and his masters and his group that we did not send him any intermediary, either Arab or non-Arab. [chants] We told him directly. Their former foreign minister [Ebrahim Yazdi] met with me at his request in Havana. I met him. He said: We want normal relations with you. I replied: We also want normal relations with you. He said: What are the bases of normal relations? I said: First, you have transgressed against us unjustly and without justification. You began to vilify us. You began instigating and imagining that you could harm Iraq. Certain trivial people began to manipulate you and put ideas into your head, and regrettably some of them are citizens of some Arab countries. I said to him: First you have behaved badly toward us and you should immediately stop this! He replied: What more? [indistinct chants] [addressing the crowd] Please, Please, Please. He replied: What more? I said: The three Arab islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa are Arab and should be returned to their owners. [prolonged cheers] He said: What more? I replied: An agreement between us was concluded under special circumstances in 1975 in which you unjustly took a part of Shatt al-Arab that must be returned to Iraq. [cheers] I said: Another point is that you must behave properly toward the Iranian people. This is our advice to you. You must behave properly toward your people. In order to deal correctly with your people you must respect their national rights. You must know that those who are in 'Arabistan are Arab, and the blood in their veins is Arab. [prolonged cheers]

Do you know what the answer was? It was a mean despicable act. The teachers at their [Iranian community] school hurled handgrenades at a funeral procession. What kind of Muslims are they? They hurled handgrenades and killed children, women and old people. They imagined that these handgrenades they were playing with could weaken the Iraqi people's determination and divert them from their objectives, glory, legacy and history. [prolonged indistinct chants]

They say they are men of religion. They have nothing to do with the values of religion. Throughout the world clergymen are known for being truthful, irrespective of what they think. Recently, these clergymen said Iraq has brought the Egyptian Army to fight them. My respect for the Egyptian Army notwithstanding, do we need anyone to fight on our behalf? [indistinct chants]

In order to gain the sympathies of the Iraqis in a recent speech, Bani-Sadr--yes, Bani-Sadr--said he is a sayyid [a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad]. Now tomorrow Carter will say he is a sayyid, and perhaps someone else will say that he is a sayyid. Well, if Bani-Sadr is a sayyid, does he not feel for his Muslim Shi'ite Arab brothers in 'Arabistan? He is firing at them daily, and their blood is being shed daily in 'Arabistan. This man bears rancor toward Arabism and Islam, because Islam's banners were carried by the Arabs and defended by Arab swords until it reached the furthest corners of the earth, including the land on which Bani-Sadr now stands. Does he want to remind the Arabs once again? Does he want to say to the Arabs that he, Bani-Sadr, and his group are also among the people who are plotting against the Arabs? We hope the Iranian people ewill find someone other than Bani-Sadr who will have better relations with the Arabs and Muslims, and find someone else other than this rotten man Khomeyni. If the Iranian people find leaders who are prepared to live honorably and in dignity with the Arabs, cooperate with them and have good neighborly relations with them, without friction and hypocrisy and without harm against the Arabs, the Iranian people will find us supportive in the face of any enemy they may face. [prolonged cheers] [indistinct aside by Saddam Husayn]

Brothers, great people: Iraq has been destined once again to assume its leading Arab role by serving honorably. Iraq has been destined once again to serve the Arab nation, and defend its honor, dignity and sovereignty. Iraq has been destined once again to face the concerted machinations of the forces of darkness--the great powers, some medium-sized states and some small states like Iraq and larger states like Khomeyni's state. Once again, we say, let them not think we fear the little bombs with which they are playing like children. Let me relate an incident to you.

The father of a young man in preparatory school said to me that his son had quarreled with his party official and was criticizing him, and that is not right. The party official was angry with the boy. What did they quarrel about? The boy said to his party official accusingly: "If you had let me stay in the front of the demonstration, I would have been hit by shrapnel; but you left me at the back of the demonstration and I was not wounded." [cheers]

Let not the great powers, whose statements we are now hearing and who are activating their agents in the area, imagine that we are afraid of them. We say to them that we are as before. We follow the path of justice, friendship and ethics. We are swords that do not waver or weaken against tyrants and in support of justice. [cheers]

Brothers, if you read Iraq's history you find that it was either at the top or crushed by the hooves of horses. There is an explanation. The Iraqi people are a people who have a mission, a cause and principles, a fighting people who defend justice, a people who look to the peaks of mountains and not to the lowlands. Therefore, we say that as long as you are climbing the mountain you must continue until you reach the peak.

You must serve the Arab nation and say to the Arabs everywhere: Those of you who fight the foreigner in defense of honor will find strong support in the Iraqi Army. Say to the Arab nation everywhere: He who wants to protect himself against pitfalls and against the foreigner will find a place in Iraq and among the Iraqi people and share in Iraq's wealth. [cheers]

So far, since the great July revolution, your blood has flowed in defense of Syria, in defense of Damascene women in the Golan, in Jordan, in Lebanon and in dear Sinai. We are sure that you are prepared to shed your blessed blood in defense of the nation, honor, beliefs and every inch the great Arab homeland. Then you will truly be at the peak. [cheers] You would not give up this great honor, would you? [shouts of approval] Yes, brothers, it is a great honor that great Iraq should cry in the face of the forces of darkness and in the face of the superpowers: The Arab homeland must have one land, and the Arab people must be one nation. It must follow the principles that unite the Arabs and not the path that divides it into shares among covetous states. [prolonged cheers]

These principles, of course, demand sacrifice, as you know. You are not tired of sacrifice. I know that you do not tire of sacrifice. [shouts of "We are your soldiers, o Saddam"]

The principles about which we are talking today are the essence of the principles of the pan-Arab charter declared on 8 February 1980. However, U.S. imperialism has succeeded in persuading the Somalis to give it military facilities in Somalia, contrary to these principles. Regrettably, some Arab rulers are trying to manuever and scheme--they like to scheme a lot--believing that they can circumvent the charter and its principles. The charter and its principles however are written not on paper but in blood and in our hearts. They are written in the conscience of every free Arab man and woman in the Arab homeland who wants dignity and honor in defense of principles.

Your banner will remain high, God willing, for the Iraqis' happiness, dignity, honor, glory and future. The banner will remain high in defense of the Arab nation's honor, dignity, freedom and happiness. You, men and women, will continue to be swords defending these principles.

Brothers, please convey our greetings, the greetings of the Revolution Council and your party leadership, to every home, farm, factory and school, to the small child who (?sings) revolution and to the noble Iraqi women. I wish you prosperity, dignity, honor and happiness. God's peace and benedictions be with you. [cheers]

DEPUTY PREMIER HADDAD DENOUNCES STEADFASTNESS FRONT

LD161316 Kuwait KUNA in English 161047 Apr 80

[Text] Kuwait, April 16 (KUNA)--A (?senior) Iraqi official Wednesday criticized the Arab Steadfastness Front opposed to the Israeli-Egyptian peace moves in the Middle East, describing it as an "ineffective informational phenomenon."

The Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Na'im Haddad told AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM newspaper that his country would not join the front as long as its actions were limited to informational activity and not to revolutionary strategy.

Observers believe this was the most critical stand by an Iraqi official against the front which was created in 1977 to foil Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat's peace initiative towards Israel. The front, which concluded a three-day meeting in Tripoli Tuesday night, groups Libya, Algeria, Syria, South Yemen and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Iraq, which opposes the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty signed under U.S. patronage, has abstained from joining the front and instead advocated a wider Arab front to oppose the Camp David agreements and the peace treaty.

Haddad lashed out at the outcome of the front's conference which he said had failed to create an Arab front with clear cut strategy and had backed out of a commitment to total liberation of the occupied Arab territories.

Iraq, he said, abides by its stand calling for complete liberation of the Arab territories, creation of an independent Palestinian state and rendering real assistance to the Arab freedom fighters. He believes the front did not commit itself to these principles.

The front leaders discussed the possibility of imposing an embargo on gas and oil supplies to the U.S. for its biased policy towards Israel. A decision on this subject was left for an Arab ministerial meeting to be held in Amman next June.

AMBASSADOR TO UN SPEAKS ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL ISSUE

NC162233 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Text] The Security Council this evening resumed its debate on the stationing of Israeli forces inside Lebanese territory and the aggressions to which UNIFIL is subjected by Israel and the border strip militiamen.

The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent said in a dispatch from Washington this evening that the Security Council received a report from the General Secretariat stating that the situation in southern Lebanon is deteriorating despite partial improvement in certain positions.

The report stresses that UNIFIL does not enjoy free movement, that the situation in At-Tiri is unchanged, that the observation posts are still isolated and that UNIFIL cannot provide them with supplies.

Lebanon's permanent ambassador to the United Nations, Ghassan Tuwayni, made a speech in which he called on the Security Council to heed the gravity of the report. He pointed out that the report contains no indication of any Israeli withdrawal.

Ambassador Tuwayni said he wanted to ask the General Secretariat to state frankly and directly whether or not the Israeli forces have withdrawn from Lebanese territory so that Lebanon may decide its final stand in light of the assessment of the General Secretariat. At this point the Israeli envoy asked to speak. He reiterated what he said in his speech at the beginning of the debate--that the Israeli forces entered Lebanon after the Misgav'Am operation to carry out limited operations, that it completed its operations and withdrew.

Ambassador Tuwayni said: Lebanon, the Security Council and the General Secretariat are not prepared to fall into another Israeli trap, as happened when the announcement of an alleged withdrawal was made on 13 June 1978.

Thus Tuwayni addressed his question to the General Secretariat and asked the Security Council chairman to convene another session when the answer is received. At this point the chairman adjourned the session, saying that consultations will take place Thursday in the light of which he will decide how to handle the case.

VOICE OF HOPE: HADDAD, ERSKINE DISCUSS 'TENSE' SITUATION

NC160732 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Text] On 15 April a meeting was held in An-Naqurah between Major Haddad and his aides on one side and General Erskine and his aides on the other. The meeting began at 1900 and ended at 2100.

During the meeting the tense situation in the area was discussed with a view to finding an appropriate solution that will please all sides. General Erskine informed those present of the approval for the dispatch of a company from the Lebanese Army battalion in Arzun to be deployed in the At-Tiri area. The proposal will be accepted by Major Haddad when the following conditions are fulfilled: 1) Lebanese Army commander Gen Victor Khuri must come to Free Lebanon to discuss, face to face, the subject of the company with him; 2) The company must come under the order of Major Haddad's command: 3) The names of those who form the company must be furnished in advance; 4) The company must pass through the barriers of the Free Lebanese forces.

General Erskine promised to pass these conditions to the competent sources and to pass on the reply to Major Haddad when it comes. Meanwhile, General Erskine has continued to maintain the principle of not changing the Irish contingent at present and to keep it at the current level in At-Tiri because Dr Waldheim will not approve any proposal in this regard.

However, Major Haddad promised Erskine to keep the roads closed in the face of UNIFIL in order to protect the safety of UNIFIL elements until an appropriate solution is found. Erskine promised to try to convince New York to change its stand on the subject.

ALF-AMAL ORGANIZATION CLASHES INTENSIFY

Five Persons Killed

NC151815 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] Five people were killed and five others were wounded during this morning's clash in the Al-Mashrafiyah quarter of Ash-Shiyah between elements of the Amal Movement and the Arab Liberation Front [AFL]. Gunmen fired a B-7 gernade toward a demonstration staged in protest against the murder of the Shi'ite community leader in Iraq, Muhammad Baqir as-Sadr. Amal elements encircled the building from which the fire came and arrested some suspect persons. Tension prevailed in the area amid a show of arms in Ash-Shiyah, Al-Ghubayrah and Harat Hurayk. Some explosions were heard in the area.

Renewed Confrontation

NC160840 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 0815 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Text] A new confrontation broke out today between the Amal movement and the pro-Iraqi Arab Liberation Front, [AFL]. A clash took place this morning in Burj al-Barajinah near the state school in Ar-Raml quarter between elements of the Amal Movement and the Arab Liberation Front. The clash erupted when fire was opened on the car of Al-Haj 'Ali 'Ammar, a member of the Amal Movement Command Council, from another vehicle which was chased by Amal gunmen. The area of the clash expanded to some extent but no casualties were reported. However, the atmosphere is very tense in Burj al-Barajinah, where schools and some shops have closed.

ADF COMMAND SAYS SOUTH BEIRUT CLASHES CEASE

NC161842 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Apr 80

[16 April Arab Deterrent Forces Command statement--read by announcer]

[Text] In the wake of the tension that prevailed in Beirut's southern suburb as a result of the exchanges of fire which occurred during a procession in Al-Ghubayrah to protest the arrest of Imam Muhammad Baqir as-Sadr, and as a result of the explosions directed against several Iraqi and Iranian offices and establishments in Beirut, the security situation in the southern suburb deteriorated today in the Burj al-Barajinah, Bi'r al-'Abd, and Al-Ghubayrah areas. In the course of these incidents, clashes began at 1100 and soon escalated to involve the use of RPG rockets. Armed elements appeared in the area, paralyzing traffic there. The clashes soon spread to near the Iraqi Embassy and the nearby Az-Zahra' hospital.

At that point, the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] intervened by bringing mechanized patrols into the areas of clashes on the one hand, and by asking the responsible commands to bring a swift and decisive end to the clashes and remove the armed manifestations on the other hand.

The commands concerned responded to this request and halted the clashes at 1800.

As a result of the clashes, 8 persons from the two sides were killed, while 18 others--mostly passersby--were wounded. ADF patrols are still operating in the streets that were the scene of clashes today. The ADF Command is continuing to deal with the situation in order to resolve it once and for all.

'NATIONAL FRONT' REPORTEDLY TO INCLUDE COMMUNIST GROUPS

LD161325 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 12-18 Apr 80 p 7

[Text] Arab diplomatic sources have emphasized that the Syrian authorities have released about 1,000 communist detainees of the Riyad at-Turk and the Communist Action League groups--two dissident groups from the communist party which is led by Khalid Bakdash. According to information, negotiations are under way with these two groups to have them join the Syrian ruling National Progressive Front. It is known that the Syrian regime's relations with Khalid Bakdash's group are strong. These relations became stronger recently following the Syrian-Soviet reprochement and the internal disturbances. However, it appears that the efforts to expand the national front are encountering difficulties because of the terms set by the leftist factions.

STEADFASTNESS SUMMIT ADOPTS SECRET RESOLUTIONS

JN170729 Damascus ATH-THAWRAH in Arabic 16 Apr 80 p 1

[Text] It has been learned that the fourth summit conference of the pan-Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front has adopted a number of secret resolutions apart from its declared resolutions.

'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, member of the Palestinian delegation, has told ATH-THAWRAH that the results of the conference of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front outweighed all expectations. The conference, Abu Mayzar added, has drawn up a clear-cut political line and adopted practical and tangible measures to cope with the present situation and to confront the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary challenges. Abu Mayzar added that the conference and its resolutions will have a very important positive effect on the Arab and international arenas.

JOINT ALGERIAN FLN, BA'TH PARTY STATEMENT ISSUED

JN161512 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Text] Damascus--A joint statement was issued today on the talks that were held between the Algerian National Liberation Front [FLN] Party delegation under Comrade 'Affan Jilali, FLN Political Bureau member, and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation during the period 8-15 April.

The two sides affirmed the need to bolster bilateral relations, strengthen cooperation and coordination and hold extensive contacts, in accordance with the cooperation agreement that was signed between the two parties, and to constantly seek to develop these relations in serving our common aspirations of struggle.

After having reviewed the internal situation in Syria and the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary plots to which Syria is being subjected, plots whose purpose is to involve Syria, weaken its steadfastness and divert it from its main issue, the two sides agreed to denounce the reactionary hireling elements' plots and sabotage and to firmly confront all plots intended to undermine the Syrian revolution's steadfastness and achievements for the masses.

The Algerian delegation expressed its great appreciation of the significant role played in the Arab struggle arena by the Syrian revolution, party and people, under comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, particularly in bolstering the Arab struggle and in confronting the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary plots and the organs associated with these plots. The Algerian delegation also noted Syria's great achievements in various fields, aimed at achieving a unified socialist Arab society, liberating the Arab territories and regaining the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights, through cooperation with the Algerian revolution and with all the Arab nation's progressive elements.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the positive role played by the Arab Deterrent Forces and the efforts being exerted by Syria in Lebanon. The two sides stressed the need to maintain Lebanon's independence and the unity of its territory and people and to bolster its Arab affiliation and Lebanese-Palestinian relations in a way that strengthens the Palestinian revolution and serves the Arab nation's goals.

The two sides stressed the need to work to strengthen the solidarity and unity of the Arab progressive and national elements. They stressed the need to promote the pan-Arab Front for Steadfastness and Confrontation and to make it an effective strategic front.

The two sides denounced all imperialist threats and plots to establish foreign bases, mobilize armies and prepare for military intervention, in order to entrench imperialist hegemony over the region.

The statement says that the two sides agreed on the need to bolster and support all Arab liberation elements, in order to give the Arab march impetus toward achieving its goals. Thus, the two sides expressed their support for the struggle being waged by the liberation front of As-Saqiyah al-Hamra' and Wadi adh-Dhahab to determine the fate of the Arab Western Saharan people.

The two sides hailed the Egyptian national front, expressing their solidarity with it and with the Arab Egyptian people's struggle to abort the hireling As-Sadat plot and to return Arab Egypt to its natural position in the progressive unified Arab ranks.

The two sides expressed their apprehensions over the imperialist maneuvers and attempts to exacerbate the international atmosphere and to incite disturbances against the Progressive and national elements.

The two sides reiterated their support for the struggle of the toiling peoples in Asia, Africa and Latin America, stressing the need to bolster relations and cooperation with the socialist states, which are the legitimate, objective allies of the Arab liberation movement.

PDRY LEADER HOLDS TALKS WITH AL-ASAD, DEPARTS

JN161702 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Excerpt] Damascus--A meeting was held at the guest palace at 1100 today between his excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium chairman. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Salim Salih Muhammad, PDRY foreign affairs minister; and Ahmad Salim 'Jbayd, PDRY deputy defense minister.

At 1130, the two leaders held a closed meeting at the presidential palace, during which they reviewed the situation in the Arab area, the resolutions of the fourth conference of the pan-Arab Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation and the implementation of these resolutions. Their talks also touched on the fraternal relations between the Syrian Arab Republic and the PDRY and on means of further strengthening these relations. The meeting was interrupted by a working luncheon attended by the Yemeni delegation, the prime minister, a number of ministers and the chief of staff of the army and armed forces.

At 1600, leader 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium chairman, left Damascus with his accompanying delegation following a 1-day visit to the country. President Hafiz al-Asad led those who saw the Yemeni leader off.

Cables Al-Asad

JN162007 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Cable sent by PDRY leader 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on 16 April]

[Text] As we leave the fraternal Syrian Arab country, it gives us pleasure to express to you our most sincere greetings and to wish you, personally, continuous good health and progress and prosperity to your party and to the fraternal Syrian Arab people.

On this occasion, we would like to express our great appreciation of and pride in the struggle, sacrifices and steadfastness of the fraternal Syrian Arab people, who are the vanguards of our Arab nation and of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front in the struggle against the Zionist enemy, for the liberation of the occupied Arab territories and for the restoration of the fraternal Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

In the name of our party, people and government, we express our full support for you against the conspiratorial reactionary invasion, both internal and external, and for the steadfastness of Syria in facing Zionism and imperialism. We also express the wish that our bilateral relations will further develop and progress further, in the service of our fraternal peoples.

DEFENSE MINISTER RECEIVES ALGERIAN MILITARY OFFICIAL

JN170606 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Text] Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the army and armed forces and defense minister, this morning received Lt Col Hashishi Zayn al-'Abidin, member of the Central Committee of the Algerian National Liberation Front and president of the Algerian military academy, and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by the Algerian military attache in Damascus.

UPCOMING VISIT BY BULGARIA'S ZHIVKOV ANNOUNCED

JN161806 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Text] Damascus--At the invitation of President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, Todor Zhivkov, first secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, will lead a party and governmental delegation on an official and friendly visit to the Syrian Arab Republic in the second half of this month.

PRIME MINISTER BEGIN TALKS ABOUT WASHINGTON MEETINGS

TA161824 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1725 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Israel Premier Menachem Begin holds news conference in Washington at Blair House after the third meeting with U.S. President Carter; Prime Minister Begin's statements follow a short statement in English by President Carter, almost unmonitorable due to superimposed description in Hebrew by Jerusalem Radio Washington correspondent Shalom Qital--live]

[Text] [Begin] Good evening. As usual after talks, if it is announced that they were sincere and friendly, the interpretation is that deep differences of opinion occurred. In order to prevent such an erroneous impression, I would like to state simply that we had good talks in Washington, both personally between the President and myself and jointly between the deliberations. The first result is that we have decided to continue the negotiations, but not over the seas, rather in Egypt and in Israel in the remaining 40 days left until 26 May, which is not a final date and which had been expressed in the joint letter of President as-Sadat and myself addressed to President Carter and which we want to fulfil. During those 40 days we will sit half the time in Israel and half the time in Egypt and will try to reach an agreement regarding the arrangements for autonomy for the Arab inhabitants in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. We will start this immediately after our return to Israel, and we are hoping to reach an agreement.

As far as we are concerned, the condition is faithfulness to the Camp David accords, as we proved--in our estimation--also in the Washington talks. We adhere to the great principle that agreements should be fulfilled and not changed. If the agreement is reached by 26 May, we will be very happy. I think that many will be happy. But if not, it will be necessary to continue the negotiatons.

I would like to say that we have spent 2 very good days in Washington and that the atmosphere in the talks was very good. There was no pressure, as reported in Israel and abroad as well; there was no gloomy atmosphere, as I read in one of the newspapers. On the contrary, there were expressions of mutual friendship, of an effort to understand each other and find a way. I hope it will, indeed, be found.

Now, if you please, I would like to switch to English. However, if you still have some more questions in Hebrew for the citizens of our country, I will be happy to answer them, and later, I will switch to English.

[Shalom Qital] Mr Prime Minister, you spoke about an agreement on the subject procedure regarding how the talks would be held. How did you find the U.S. position on substantive subjects. Ultimately, when the talks begin, it is necessary to reach an agreement on full autonomy?

[Begin] Yes, certainly, certainly. Well, we took an initiative and submitted proposals and, of course, it is also necessary to consult with Egypt regarding the decision on the location of the meetings. As you know, a change has taken place, since the initial decision was that they be held in Washington and President as-Sadat agreed with my proposal--as I submitted it here on behalf of the cabinet--that the talks be held in the Middle East. We submitted proposals, held a debate. On some things an agreement was reached, on some issues we will continue the discussions, but the proposals were really of very significant value. We will continue to work on them.

[IDF Radio Washington Correspondent Rafi Mann] Mr Prime Minister, has the gap between the Israeli and U.S. positions been bridged on the two sensitive issues of East Jerusalem and the questions of security in the autonomy in Judaea and Samaria?

[Begin] Let me begin with the second question. I think the U.S. delegation understands our position on security well and I will soon say it in English...You will also understand the list of what we have recently discovered with respect to the planning of bloody attacks on us, and it understands that it is in Israel's interest to maintain security, but we have a Camp David agreement according to which we will act as well, and in this respect we have certainly met with good understanding.

As for Jerusalem, the problem was raised yesterday, as we clarified our position: This is Israel's capital, one city, not given to any partition, either indirectly or directly in any way. This is our position. The U.S. delegation accepted this. I am not saying that it accepted it in the sense that it agreed with it, but it accepted it as being our position. I am also prepared to accept the definition the U.S. President used publicly, that Jerusalem would not be divided and that free access of members of all faiths to the holy sites would be guaranteed. This is precisely the state of affairs as it exists today, and we will continue to maintain it in all the coming generations.

[End of live relay of Begin's statement. Aide Dan Patir--presumably--announces that the prime minister will now switch to English]

Further Details

TA161826 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Excerpt] The prime minister emphasized that Israel would continue to establish new settlements in the territories because they are essential for our security and we had made it clear to the United States and to Egypt, even though their objection to the settlements remained.

Mr Begin said that in his talks in Washington, the proposal that Israel freeze the settlements was not raised at all, not even that it abstain from establishing new settlements until 26 May, the target day.

The prime minister noted that in his talks with President Carter, he did not ask for more arms. However, he said, he raised some ideas on military issues. Mr Begin refrained from elaborating.

Mr Begin made these statements about an hour ago in Washington at a news conference in Blair House, to which he had come for the third, conclusive, meeting with Carter.

AUTONOMY TALKS TO START 22 APRIL IN CAIRO

TA162109 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Text] Egyptian sources told our correspondent in Cairo Ehud Ya'ari this evening that the intense autonomy talks will start on 22 April, immediately after Israel's Independence Day. The talks will start in the Mena House Hotel in Cairo. They will last 20 consecutive days and immediately afterwards the three delegations will move to Herzliyya, where they will sit for 20 more days.

A statement released in Cairo today announces that President as-Sadat agreed to Mr Begin's proposal on the speeded up procedures of the talks. Cairo further states that Begin's proposal was that the three delegations will confer day and night during the period of time left before the target date of 26 May.

MINISTER WEIZMAN INTERVIEWED ON POLITICAL ISSUES

TA162056 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1940 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Interview with Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman by Yuvya Sa'ar, Elimelekh Ram and Ya'aqov Ahime'ir within the framework of the weekly Moqed program, live in the television studio--live]

[Excerpts] [Ram] Mr Weizman, is it true what the commander of the Northern Command said, that the IDF had not acted against the terrorists for over half a year for political reasons?

[Weizman] Certainly. There are political restrictions to every military operation. There were political restrictions to the Qadesh operation [the 1957 Sinai campaign] as well. My reservation was only that there are remarks Major Generals can make and others that they cannot. He was right, but he did not exactly make the remarks within his capacity.

[Sa'ar] And you reprimanded him?

[Weizman] I brought this to his attention.

[Ahim'ir] Mr Weizman, in reaction to the terrorists' penetration into Misgav 'Am, there was a penetration of an IDF force into southern Lebanon. This force retreated a few days later. Can you explain to us what this IDF force achieved at a time when there was going to be a UN Security Council session on that issue? What were the gains of this operation?

[Weizman] I can tell from your question that you did not favor the operation.

[Ahime'ir] I am only asking this question.

[Weizman] Certainly. I would suggest not using the word retreat all the time. Retreat is during battles.

[Ahime'ir] Redeployment then.

[Weizman] Thank you. The IDF had several goals. One goal was to induce a better feeling in the north. Second, we had information that there might be penetrations from the same place. Therefore, we entered, created several facts, made some observations and then, when we saw that the situation there was such as to enable us to leave, we left.

[Sa'ar] Was it the prime minister's visit in Washington that prevented a massive retaliation as is customary for us?

[Weizman] First, we are used to various kinds of actions, not necessarily retaliatory acts, and if so, not always massive. The acts are sometimes on a large and sometimes on a small scale. We will act when we see fit, at the right time, place and manner and will also take political issues, including a prime minister's visit to Washington, into consideration.

[Ram] Mr Weizman, you said there was a danger of or information on other penetrations. Did we remove the forces from southern Lebanon when it became clear there was no further danger of additional penetrations?

[Weizman] No, this danger always exists and there is always IDF activity. Ahime'ir asked me about that entry into and exit from southern Lebanon. I would like everybody to know that there are always, throughout the year, intelligence reports which I cannot go into. However, neither in defensive or in offensive activity--we never act without intelligence material.

[Sa'ar] Let us then go over to the autonomy issue. Do you support autonomy for the Gaza Strip first?

[Weizman] Look, the answer is yes. It is not very easy for me to make comments on this issue today when we are going to have 20 days of negotiations here. I think this was a good decision and I welcome it. When and if we come to this question I will express my opinion. I would not want to evade it though--if this question is raised, I will be in favor.

[Ahime'ir] You said an important thing, Mr Weizman, you said you support autonomy for Gaza first. What are your reasons for this?

[Weizman] I have long thought everything can proceed at a different pace.

[Ahime'ir] Quicker?

[Weizman] I said a different pace. Pace could be quicker or slower as one wishes. I repeat, it is a little difficult for me to speak today when the prime minister has not returned home yet. However, I would not want to evade this point. For example, I repeat, the prime minister has done well to set 40 days for concluding the subject. This means deciding on a pace.

[Ahime'ir] We asked about Gaza. Why do you support the Gaza first idea?

[Weizman] I do so since I believe this will get the whole process moving at suitable pace. Moreover, our main issue today is relations with Egypt. This does not stand above and beyond everything else, but it does have great importance. To an extent we have become accustomed to have an ambassador here and an ambassador there, a flag here and a flag there, telephones and planes and the likes. Therefore, it is possible that if we do several things in Gaza first, this whole process we have initiated, concluded and signed will move faster and better.

[Sa'ar] Did you try to say all this to the prime minister?

[Weizman] Yes, I said all this to the prime minister. The prime minister knows this. I am again happy that there is again a momentum to the whole issue and that in 40 days we may achieve things we have not achieved over 400 days. However, regarding the details of my solutions on the autonomy issue--I prefer to discuss this when I am asked in the autonomy committee.

[Ram] Mr Weizman, in your opinion, how can Jordan, King Husayn, be coopted to the negotiations?

[Weizman] I am not sure about this. I am not sure it is at all possible to include him in the autonomy solution. There is something interesting I would like to note here. There is some atmosphere of antiautonomy, anti our own solution...

[Sa'ar] Who are you referring to?

[Weizman] The atmosphere in the country, here. I am not speaking about the government at the moment. I am not always referring to the government. I am talking about my feeling regarding people's moods. It is very interesting to note that most of the Arab world, including King Husayn, rejects the autonomy plan. If it is so bad for them why is it bad for us? Therefore, I greatly doubt if King Husayn will join the talks at this stage, in face of the solutions we offer. I am not very troubled about this.

[Ahime'ir] Mr Weizman, would you be prepared to consider territorial compromise with Jordan?

[Weizman] I adhere to the Cabinet decision in which I participated. I am a partner to it. Moreover, I was one of the members of the leading team in Camp David in concluding the autonomy issue. Therefore, we should adhere to the Camp David agreements, to our conclusions there, to the letter. Then I believe we can break through and we should primarily strengthen the peace treaty between Egypt and us.

[Ahime'ir] To always base ourselves on Camp David?

[Weizman] At this stage--yes.

[Ahime'ir] Then why do you support the Gaza first idea?

[Weizman] Since this is part of Camp David, since the Camp David accords speak of autonomy in Gaza and in Judaea and Samaria.

[Ram] Simultaneously though.

[Weizman answer inaudible due to interjection by one of the correspondents]

[Sa'ar] We are trying to understand your world view regarding the integrity of the country--the Judaea and Samaria issue?

[Weizman] Look, I think autonomy is an attempt--I hope it will be successful--that made it possible to break through to a peace treaty with Egypt. I would repeat for yet another time that 3 years ago none of us believed, thought or dreamed we would have the agreement we have with Egypt today. The means for the breakthrough was the autonomy solution since it was clear that President as-Sadat and Egypt would not go for something that does not even begin to be a solution for the problem called the problem of the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el. The wording in Hebrew is the problem of the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el. I believe that if we find this solution, we may have the full cake and eat it too.

[Sa'ar] Well, we did not receive a full or real answer to the question...

[Weizman--interrupting] I would like to tell you, the entire Camp David proposal does not come to a real answer. The entire idea contained in this proposal is the beginning of a process. It does not pretend to be or to look for a real answer. Therefore, you could not get a real answer from me either. The process is intended to change the status quo in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. We, the Israeli Government and the Knesset agreed on one thing--that the status quo must change. What it finally develops into, this is a process that will last for 5 years. Let us start the process which we aimed it. I repeat for the third time--I heard the news today, I also talked with the prime minister on the telephone yesterday--I am happy we are entering some sort of a precipitated process that is bound by a definite period of 40 days.

[Sa'ar] The press has lately had many speculations and quotes from your own mouth...

[Weizman--interrupting] Not my quotes...

[Sa'ar--continuing] You denied some of them.

[Weizman--interrupting] I have not denied anything and I will not make denials here either. Go on, though, quote them.

[Sa'ar] Are you really considering resignation at the end of next month?

[Weizman] First, I have never said next month. I have considered resignation though. In certain situations I may absolutely implement a turning point in my political life.

[Sa'ar] In which situations?

[Weizman] Situations I will decide.

[Sa'ar] Are you prepared to tell us about them?

[Weizman] No. If I feel that I have reached some kind of crossroads, I will do so. Whether I rush to do so, whether I am happy to do so or am looking for this--the answer to this is no. However, absolutely, if I reach a situation of crossroads I will carry out what I told some friends who quoted me in the press.

[Sa'ar] When you talk about a crossroads, when you are fed up and sick and tired?

[Weizman] It is not a matter of being fed up or tired. I have set myself a certain path for which I had fought--at least in part--during the elections. I feel no small responsibility for the results of the elections. I did not do it myself but I feel rather responsible. By the way, I would consider early elections. I would certainly consider early elections because certain things for which we went to the polls do not exist today.

[Ahime'ir] At this very hour?

[Weizman] Wait a minute. If not this very hour, perhaps in 2 hours.

[Ram] On what issues, sir?

[Weizman] On issues which you see when you open the newspaper and you see a situation in which, I believe, there is a lot that is positive in the State of Israel; yet on the other hand there is an atmosphere of dissatisfaction and gloom.

[Ram] Why?

[Weizman] That would be worthwhile clarifying in the elections. If we have early elections today--and early elections can be held in 6 months, not necessarily tomorrow--we will give everyone a chance--including the Likud--to realign, to decide on its path where certain subjects we presented to the voter in 1977 have not been implemented, and rightfully so. I am glad that some things were carried out differently, but it is very possible that in 1 year, and perhaps even earlier than that, everyone will scrutinize himself and we will work out a way to leap ahead in domestic, economic, social and political issues--such as our relations with the United States. Our relations with Egypt, our way toward the autonomy--all those issues which are, each and every one, a world in itself, and which can all move the country forward away from the awkward situation which we are in.

[Ahime'ir] Mr Weizman, you...

[Weizman, interrupting] One moment. And then, it is very possible instead of seeking to amend here or there, going to realignment internally and politically within each party and going to the polls so that the people determine who will lead, perhaps this is the right way now.

[Ram] Perhaps also regarding the Cabinet's functioning, which brings me to the next question, Mr Weizman, if you please: Why are there bad relations between yourself and the prime minister?

[Weizman] Who said the relations between myself and the prime minister are sour? There are--and he woke me up last night at 2 o'clock by telephone from Washington, and not in order to worsen the relations between himself and myself, but in order to tell me some things, good things.

[Ahime'ir] Do friends converse at 2 A.M.?

[Weizman] Certainly, only friends speak at 2 A.M. I would not say that between me and the prime minister there are...

[Ram] Idyllic relations.

[Weizman] First of all, we are both grown up. And he is a lot older than me. The relations between a prime minister and a minister are certain relations. He sometimes differs with me and I sometimes disagree with him. On the whole, we have tried to move along a certain path for 3 years now and it is true that wher I sometimes think that I have something different to say, I say so, and I have been trying to move along the route which would bring about the things in which I believe.

[Ahime'ir] Mr Weizman, I would like to return to something you said beforehand. It seems to me that you launched a political bomb because you are, more or less, in favor of early elections. Have you coordinated with Prime Minister Menahem Begin on this matter?

[Weizman] No.

[Ahime'ir] And you say this on your behalf only?

[Weizman] Yes.

[Ahime'ir] In early elections, would you go to them under Mr Begin as the head of the Likud list?

[Weizman] I thank you for this question. I had anticipated it and waited for it. This will depend on how things are handled, what the path will be. It is precisely because of this that I think it is now worthwhile to begin a process which would bring about early elections so that we could clarify--including us in the government--what is our path, and do so among ourselves, so that there is no malfunction here and there every time or when I have arguments with someone and someone argues with me. What I am saying now has not been coordinated with the prime minister. I hope I am not causing him any displeasure in Washington. I will make it clear to him; he has also heard some things from me some time ago. I believe that what would make me decide regarding your question would be the path the Likud would adopt, the technique with which things would be done, for instance on domestic or economic problems, such as how to boost the people's morale, which I believe can be a source for a potential which can be released from the people and they can be pushed to do incredible things: in industry, in agriculture, in all the areas of the people's functioning. It is not only the functioning of the Cabinet, it is the functioning of the people. Therefore, it is not coordinated with the prime minister, and I will decide what my path will be when I see what way the train goes.

[Ahime'ir] That means, that you are in Begin's government on condition?

[Weizman] I think every politician works on condition. I think a politician--and I do not consider myself a politician, only a public figure. A public figure who pushes himself along a certain path without detouring, without reaching a crossroads or making a shift, without any certain condition, I do not think he is a good public figure.

[Sa'ar] Mr Weizman, do you have aspirations to head the Likud list?

[Weizman] If I were able to lead the Likud along the path I believe in, I would aspire to do so. If the Likud could take the course I think it should take, let it be.

[Ram] Are you in favor of establishing a liberal center with the Likud's liberals under your leadership?

[Weizman] I do not know for the moment. I support nothing at the moment. If the Likud takes the right course, all the better. If not, how did Ya'aqov Ahime'ir put it: Conditionally?

[Ram] Sir, have you ever considered such an idea?

[Weizman] Colleagues consider. I deal with defense issues and, thank God, it gives me many hours of work--25 a day.

[Ahime'ir] Mr Weizman, are you aware of the fact that in your statements tonight on the notion of early elections, it seems to me, if I understand correctly, there is an element of very serious doubt about Begin's leadership?

[Weizman] No.

[Ahime'ir] As you said, these things were not coordinated with Mr Begin. You spoke about gloom among the people. You talked about domestic issues. It seems to me that with respect to all these issues, including the idea of early elections--which, in fact, in our parliamentary system, depends on the prime minister, because it has to do with amending a Knesset law--you are seriously questioning his leadership?

[Weizman] Look, I repeat what I recommended. I believe the people of Israel should decide now what course they want their government to pursue. Moreover, the Cabinet--and those who have aspirations to be in the opposition--should decide on their paths. We have too many doubts, too many arguments, too many people taking too many courses. Therefore, this is a recommendation I make with all force and good intentions, to initiate a process that would formulate thoughts that would be clear to the public. The public also has doubts. For example, you ask me about my path, you ask me about someone else's path. Let us have elections, hold meetings within the parties and the movements, shout, yell, argue and work out a course after which we will come to the people and suggest course A or course B, and the people will decide.

[Ram] Do you not fear the results?

[Weizman] The results, as far as I am concerned, are not the most important thing. What is important to me is what is good for the people of Israel and how to extricate the people from the abyss in which they lie and put them on the king's road. In my opinion, an ideological public realignment is positive.

[Ahime'ir] Your statements, Mr Defense Minister, can be linked with a quote from you taken from a news bulletin from Washington. According to it you have been quoted as saying you would like another term as defense minister, even in a coalition with the labor party--namely, under Shim'on Peres. Are you considering this, too, now?

[Weizman] I will consider in my own way. I am not pretending that I am merely considering what is good for the people of Israel. No doubt I sometimes consider what is good for me. However, in principle, I consider the course that would contribute most to the state of Israel. When the time comes for me to decide, I will choose precisely this course.

[Ahime'ir] In other words, you will also be prepared to serve as a minister in a Shim'on Peres Cabinet?

[Weizman] My friend, I have been serving the people of Israel, like many members of my generation, since I was 18. If I can continue to serve the people one way or another, I will do so. I would consider it first of all in terms of what is good for the people, but I will also consider what is good for me.

[Ram] Mr Weizman, last week the Cabinet decided on ways to correct the malfunctions. As far as we know, you did not participate in that debate. Why, do you not believe in those decisions?

[Weizman] I do not think a body can improve itself. Perhaps it is not always a good idea to compare things with the army, in which when something goes on in the division, it is the division commanders who reorganize it. I said so and I repeat: The malfunctions in the cabinet, if there are any...

[Ram] Are there any?

[Weizman] I am not too happy with everything that has happened. It is the prime minister's job, not the job of other ministers, to present a list of do's and don'ts--the ministers' ten commandments. There is a prime minister, and he should take things into his hands. If he does--good; if he does not--it is his problem, not other ministers'.

[Ram] So, you do not believe the remedy for the Cabinet will emerge from those seven articles?

[Weizman] I have not read them.

[Ram] What is wrong with the way the Cabinet functions, sir?

[Weizman] I will only tell you one thing: If there are achievements such as peace with Egypt, if there is currently a glorious industry in the state of Israel--and I am telling you such an industry exists, and it exports wonderful things; last year, we exported military goods worth more than $600 million, wonderful products--if, for example, the aircraft industries currently channels 40 percent of its production to the defense establishment and the rest either to other bodies or to exports, and yet with such basic data the people are down, something is wrong with the Cabinet's functioning.

[Ram] So, in your opinion, it is a question of public relations?

[Weizman] No. I think that this is also a question of implementing decisions. I think it is also a question of information--which is public relations--and I think it can be improved.

[Ahime'ir] Is this a question of leadership?

[Weizman] Certainly. I repeat: Given this data, and the people of Israel have wonderful assets--good agriculture, excellent industry, glorious universities and great youth. You should have seen in Misgav 'Am how the youths reacted there. People are always seeking the malfunctions and the bad things. Thirty youngsters jumped on the house like panthers. Given these, if there is dissatisfaction, in my opinion it begins in the pilot's seat.

[Ahime'ir] Is this collective, which currently constitutes the Government of Israel, is it to your liking? Would you make changes in it? Would you replace ministers?

[Weizman] Look, certainly some of it is not to my liking, but I am not responsible for this constellation, I am part of it.

[Ram] Would you like to be responsible for the composition? In other words, would you like, or wish, or aspire to be prime minister?

[Weizman] Certainly, if I have the chance one day--which I doubt--I would like to find a way to realize those things in which I believe. However, in my opinion, according to the political constellation in Israel, I doubt what you said has a chance of materializing.

[Ram] Mr Weizman, you said you are in favor of early elections, if your proposal is not accepted. Do you think this Cabinet will finish its term?

[Weizman] It is very difficult to know now. It depends on how things develop. For example, if my friend the finance minister succeeds in handling the economy and we have good results, and if we indeed make progress on the political issue, it may perhaps be that it would survive until the end. If you insist on an answer, I have my doubts.

[Ahime'ir] Have you consulted with other Likud leaders in reaching your conclusion on early elections or is it your own idea?

[Weizman] No.

[Ahime'ir] Perhaps with Ehrlich?

[Weizman] No, not at all. Look, I know they always say: Weizman sits in his office, and people come and there are plots and things. I informed the prime minister some time ago that I would do my best to concentrate mainly on the job for which I am responsible and that is the Defense Ministry. I devote all my time to it. Therefore, this proposal is my idea. I have consulted no one about it, neither Mr Ehrlich nor anyone else.

CARTER LIKELY TO APPROVE ISRAELI REQUEST FOR LAVI ENGINES

TA171005 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Apr 80 pp 1, 8

[By Washington Correspondent Ron Ben-Yishay]

[Text] Reliable Washington sources reported last night that President Carter had promised to respond favorably to Israel's request to allow it to receive the engine and the technical aid necessary to the production of the future combat airplane, the "Lavi."

So far, the Pentagon had confirmed reports that preliminary meetings had been held on the General Dynamics D-404 engine developed for the F-18.

Israel is interested in obtaining advance presidential approval for the next stages, which would ultimately make it possible to produce the engine in Israel.

IRISH UNIFIL SOLDIER DIES OF HEAD WOUNDS

TA161911 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Excerpt] Irish UNIFIL soldier Steven Griffin died today at Rambam Hospital. He was wounded during an incident with the militia forces about 10 days ago. The UN spokesman reported that the Irish soldier was wounded in the head and has never regained consciousness since the injury.

ETHIOPIA

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO COMBAT HARARGE DROUGHT

LD161206 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0400 GMT 16 Apr 80 EA

[Text] A 22-man regional central coordinating committee was set up yesterday to organize aid to the drought-stricken throughout Hararge region.

The committee, to be chaired by chief administrator of Hararge region Comrade Col Zeleke Beyene comprises representatives from government and mass organizations. Subcommittees for movement, food and shelter, information and control, transport and settlement, health, water and agriculture were also set up under the aegis of the coordinating committee. Similar coordinating committees and subcommittees will be set up to organize drought aid at provincial and district levels. Comrade Col Zeleke Beyene, chief adminstrator of Hararge region, told those present at the meeting to draw up detailed reports on the names of people and number of cattle affected by drought when they return to their respective areas. The comrade chief administrators also told the meeting that steps must be taken to prevent the infiltration of antipeople elements and Siad Barre's harbingers of doom, who committed murder and other antirevolutionary acts during the distribution of food and medicine to the drought-stricken.

Brig Gen Mulatu Negash, commander in chief of the Eastern Command, assured provincial and district administrators that they may use the revolutionary army's communications facilities in their areas to send reports on the drought to the regional coordinating committee. Taking part in the meeting, which took place at the regional administrative office in Harar, were comrade Brig Gen Assefa Mengesha, commander of the Hararge police; Comrade Col Worku Cherinet, acting chief of military and political affairs and commissar of the Eastern Command; provincial administrators; heads of ministerial branch offices; and representatives of governmental and mass organizations.

TANZANIA

INDIA'S GANDHI ADDRESSES PRESS CONFERENCE IN CAPITAL

BK170318 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Apr 80

[Text] The prime minister has said that prospects of Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan would improve only if other countries stop condemning the Soviet action and assure Moscow that its interests are not threatened. Addressing a crowded press conference in Dar es Salaam, Mrs Gandhi made it clear while India does not countenance the presence of foreign troops anywhere, the developments in Afghanistan have to be seen in their perspective. She said many countries adopt double standards in judging international events. The United States has been increasing its bases in the area and the Soviet Union was bound to react. Asked on India's role in the development of Zimbabwe, which is attaining independence at midnight tonight, Mrs Gandhi declared that India, whish is always sympathetic toward oppressed nations which are emerging into independence, will do all in its power to help. Mrs Gandhi also answered a number of questions on domestic affairs. She said the recent bank nationalization will further help the underprivileged.

UGANDA

PRESIDENT BINAISA SPEAKS ON ANNIVERSARY OF AMIN'S OUSTER

LD112045 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 11 Apr 80 EA

[Text] President Binaisa has stated that national unity and democracy will guarantee that Uganda does not drift again into dictatorship. He said this is the only tribute we owe to the men and women who laid down their lives for the country's liberation.

Mr Binaisa told the crowd at Kololo airstrip, in Kampala, that we should never compromise with anybody on unity, democracy, national independence and social progress--the four principles of the UNLF [Uganda National Liberation Front].

He put them on the alert against the forces which seek to divide the masses on the basis of tribe, religious and party political bigotry.

The president paid tribute to the people of Tanzania for their moral and political supporter throughout the 8 years of struggle. He mentioned the sanctuary and refuge given to many of out compatiots who stayed in Tanzania and the material assistance extended to a number of political groups which were engaged in the armed resistance against dictatorship even before Amin committed his naked aggression against Tanzania in October 1978. Tribute also went to the gallant young men and women of the TPDF [Tanzanian People's Defense Force] for their heroism and other assistance after liberation.

He remarked that the last 12 months have been very significant in the history of our country because for the first time since independence we have had a government determined to fulfill its pledges to submit to the will of the electorate.

At the historic Moshi unity conference, he said, the UNLF pledged that it would expand the National Consultative Council within 6 months for the total liberation of Uganda. The UNLF also pledged that the front would hold general elections based on universal adult suffrage not later than 2 years after total liberation. This was being (?observed) ahead of schedule, said Mr Binaisa, adding that the second will also be fulfilled ahead of schedule.

On behalf of the UNLF government, he reaffirmed government determination to hold free and fair democratic elections before the end of this year. The UNLF, he said, has passed through very difficult and trying periods, but the unity spirit of Moshi has survived the battering of the enemies of the front. He mentioned the mentioned the forthcoming inauguration by him on 1 May of the Lake Katwe salt project, which has enough capacity to meet domestic demands and will have surplus for export. Other examples of the successes he enumerated included roads which are under repair and the return to business in Uganda by Mitchel Cotts, Madhavani and Mehta.

He said Uganda Airline is being rehabilitated and will acquire more planes soon and that Entebbe has been connected to Europe by a direct flight of Sabena Airlines. He added that America has promised to install a field hospital in Lira.

Mr Binaisa stressed the UNLF is taking firm steps to restore security in Kampala. He called on citizens to guard their independence, lives and property. The president paid tribute to the friendly countries which have responded to his appeal to reduce famine-hit areas with relief food.

CHAD

FIGHTING BETWEEN OUEDDEI, HABRE FORCES REPORTEDLY SLACKENS

AB161330 Paris AFP in English 1000 GMT 16 Apr 80

[By Patrick van Roekeghem]

[Text] Ndjamena, 16 Apr (AFP)--Fighting eased on the northern front in this embattled Chadian capital late yesterday, but showed no sign of slackening from the south where Vice President Wadal Abdelkader Kamougue's Chadian Armed Forces were shelling the African sector held by Defence Minister Hissein Habre.

The intensity of the battle between Mr Habre's Armed Forces of the North and President Goukouni Oueddei's People's Armed Forces fell markedly with only some 30 shell explosions being heard, around half the normal total in mid-afternoon, on the north front.

Two shells fell close to the French military base at the southern end of the airport runway, but caused no damage.

Streetfighting with automatic weapons also appeared to have eased, in contrast to the tempo of the southern shelling which observers believed could herald a major attack by Col Kamougue on Mr Habre's troops.

Cease-fire commission members were continuing their work but maintaining total silence on progress, apparently to ensure that nothing destroyed the slender chances of success.

By yesterday afternoon, the two main hospitals coping with this civil war had been flooded by nearly 2,000 wounded and war sick since the outbreak of fighting on March 22.

Civilian and military casualties were joined by victims, including many children, of epidemics of meningitis and measles which have broken out here.

Accusations of French Support

AB161504 Paris AFP in English 1429 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Text] Ndjamena, Apr 16 (AFP)--A radio station loyal to southern leader Abdelkader Wadal Kamougue today called on France to pull its 1,200 men out of Chad and accused Paris of giving military support to Defence Minister Hissein Habre in the civil war.

The radio, based at Moundou in the south of the country, made its broadcast after a visit to the town yesterday by French ambassador here Marcel Beaux, during which he met Lieutenant Colonel Kamougue.

The forces of Lieutenant Colonel Kamougue, who is vice president in the inoperative Transitional Unity Government of president Goukouni Oueddei, are shelling Ndjamena from outside the city as the Goukouni and Habre armies continue their more than three-week battle inside the capital.

Radio Moundou charged that 60 French artillerymen were helping Mr Habre's Northern Armed Forces (FAN) and that two new French units had arrived in Ndjamena to take part in the fighting. It said there was no longer any need for a French presence in the country since most French nationals had fled the capital.

The radio also broadcast an interview of Mr Beaux in which he faced a barrage of angry questions from southern journalists. They accused France of passing military information gathered by a reconnaissance plane to Mr Habre's forces.

During the interview, Mr Beaux reaffirmed France's strict neutrality in the Chadian conflict and strongly denied that Paris was interfering in the country's internal affairs.

Mr Beaux, who was accompanied on his trip yesterday by French Consul Claude Soubestre, met with members of the 260-strong French community still working in the south of the country, which has been unaffected by the fighting.

Ndjamena Shelling

AB161744 Paris AFP in French 1111 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Excerpts] Ndjamena, 16 Apr (AFP)--Fighting in Ndjamena intensifed on Tuesday on the southern front, where the positions held by the troops of Defense Minister Hissein Habre are being pounded by the artillery of the southern vice president, Lt Col Abdelkader Wadel Kamougue.

According to reports from this sector, where it is impossible to go, the heavy shelling of the positions held in the African part of town by Mr Habre's Armed Forces of the North was carried on all afternoon by the Chadian Armed Forces (FAT) of Lt Col Abdelkader Kamougue, the violent shelling started early in the morning.

According to observers in the Chadian capital, this intervention is aimed at proving that Lieutenant Colonel Kamougue is no longer content with mere harassing actions but is getting ready to launch a large-scale attack on the FAN positions. The latter would then be caught in pincers formed by the FAT and President Goukouni Oueddei's People Armed Forces.

Meanwhile, the number of wounded is increasing continuously; and it was reported on Tuesday morning that the hospital at the French base, located in the FAP zone, had admitted more than 1,000 wounded since the beginning of civil war on 22 March. The rapid intervention military medical unit installed by the French Army inside Cameroonian territory, at Kousseri facing Ndjamena across the Chari River, admitted 832 patients on Tuesday at noon. This field hospital mainly tends the wounded from the FAN zone. These figures include combatants and civilians wounded in battles, as well as sick people. In fact, epidemics of meningitis and measles have broken out in the wake of the fighting and have caused many deaths, among children in particular.

Fighting Increases

AB170752 Paris AFP in English 0727 GMT 17 Apr 80

[Text] Ndjamena, 17 Apr (AFP)--Apparently boosted by reinforcements and fresh supplies of ammunition, Chad's warring factions late yesterday increased the intensity of the battle for the capital here after a lull of several days.

Heavy fighting broke out all along the northern front, from the airport to the customs posts on the Chari River, between President Goukouni Oueddei's Peoples Armed Forces and Defense Minister Hissein Habre's Armed Forces of the North.

Gunfire from automatic weapons, and the blast of heavy artillery rocked the extreme north of the city, a major combat area since the civil war broke out 23 days ago.

On the southern front between the national guard buildings and the Saint Martin basin--limit of the European and African quarters--fighting reached the same violent tempo.

Late last night, it was impossible to verify whether either of the two main combatants had advanced their hold on the city, or to define exactly the position of Vice President Wadal Abdelkader Kamougue's forces whose heavy artillery since Tuesday has been bombarding the African sector held by Mr Habre.

ZAIRE

AZAP CONFIRMS MOBUTU'S ULTIMATUM TO STUDENTS

AB161608 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1240 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Text] Kinshasa, 15 Apr (AZAP)--The founding president of the MPR [Popular Movement of the Revolution] and president of the republic, Citizen Mobutu Sese Seko, this morning received at Mount Ngaliema the first state commissioner, Bo-Boliko Lokonga, who called to give him a general report on the situation in the general and higher education sectors and in the scientific research sector especially, the Voice of Zaire reported during its news broadcast at 1300 [Kinshasa time].

Upon realizing that the students had defied authority, the president of the republic ordered that classes resume tomorrow, Wednesday 16 April, according to the news broadcast. If the (?students) refuse to obey this order, the Kinshasa University campus and all the higher institutions will be closed on Saturday at midday.

The Voice of Zaire added that the parents and students concerned are invited to recognize the seriousness of the problem and to take up their responsibilities.

Students' Defiance

AB161642 Paris AFP in English 1610 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Text] Kinshasa, Apr 16 (AFP)--Striking students at the university here today defied an ultimatum by Head of State Mobutu Sese Seko after burning 22 vehicles, including buses, on the campus last night.

Today the campus, about 15 kms (nine miles) from here, was calm although it was surrounded by the army, which took up positions last night.

Yesterday President Mobutu ordered the students to return to class or see the campus and schools closed by Saturday.

Youths from nearby suburb joined in last night's violence and antiregime slogans were shouted, sources said.

The students are protesting against deteriorating classroom conditions and inadequate scholarships, often paid months late.

The students are tacitly supported by the people of Kinshasa, causing concern in ruling circles, and last Saturday a student delegation handed a memorandum to Prime Minister Bo-Boliko Lokonga calling for greater democratization of the regime.

The students are supported by a number of teachers in primary and secondary schools, who have also gone on strike. Conditions have worsened because of severe inflation caused by the government's attempts to reform and revitalise the economy.

One technical school has already been shut for this academic year and another was closed temporarily last month.

LIBERIA

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES W. AFRICAN AMBASSADORS

AB161030 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0625 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Text] The ambassadors of the Ivory Coast, Guinea and Sierra Leone accredited to this capital, have reaffirmed the desire of their respective governments to continue the warm and friendly relations between their countries and Liberia. The reassurance came yesterday when Liberian foreign minister, G. Bacchus Matthews, received Ambassador (Ben Dawda Toure) of Guinea, Ambassador Clement Kaul Meledje of the Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone charge d'affairs, (A. Arrow Warri). Foreign Minister Matthews expressed government's deep appreciation for the sentiments conveyed and said that the Government of Liberia will strive to further strengthen the brotherly ties existing between Liberia on the one hand and the Republics of Guinea, Sierra Leone and the Ivory Coast.

RADIO REPORTS 'DISLOYAL' TROOPS KILL OFFICIAL IN AMBUSH

AB161730 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1700 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Text] The artillery commander of the People's Redemption Council, (Arsey Jewon) was on Monday killed in an ambush at (Bortala), Bong County, by troops disloyal to the new military government. According to the commanding general of the Armed Forces of Liberia, (Thomas Kowian Gbah), the ambush was staged by 36 rebel soldiers in an attempt to destabilize the new military government. Members of the rebel troops have been arrested and are presently detained at the (Bagwe) training center in Monrovia and waiting for trial. Speaking to the Liberian News Agency today Commanding General (Kowian Gbah) said those found guilty will be executed immediately by firing squad. Meanwhile, a massive search is going on for the arrest of (William Jeboh), leader of the insurgents.

SGT DOE HOLDS FIRST MEETING OF NEW CABINET

AB161846 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1755 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Text] The head of state and chairman of the People's Redemption Council, Samuel K. Doe, today called on members of his cabinet to work harder to win the total support of the Liberian people. He said: As courageous men, I am sure we shall overcome in bringing fulfillment to all Liberians.

Master Sergeant Doe made the remark at his first cabinet meeting at the executive mansion since he led the coup which overthrew the Tolbert government last Saturday. He reported that conditions were far under control and Liberians were happy for their redemption.

Responding, the minister of state for presidential affairs, Dr George (Bolley) thanked the head of state for the efforts which he is making to rebuild the country.

TRIAL OF FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BEGINS

AB161735 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1700 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Text] The trial of former government officials of the ousted Tolbert government began today at the Barclay Training Center in Monrovia before a five-man military tribunal. Mr Joseph Chesson, former minister of justice, was the first to appear before the tribunal to answer charges of high treason, rampant corruption, misuse of public office and suppression of human and constitutional rights.

The tribunal, headed by Lt Col (Frank Peckiney), was open to local and foreign journalists. Other officials are expected to be tried later today.

Further Details

AB162014 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Text] The trial of officials of the ousted Tolbert government began today in Monrovia. Our correspondent was on the spot at the Barclays Training Center [words indistinct]. Mr Joseph Chesson, former minister of justice, was the first to appear before the tribunal to answer to charges of high treason, rampant corruption, misuse of public office and suppression of human and constituional rights.

Testifying before the special tribunal, Joseph Chesson said he had not accumulated wealth since he became justice minister. He categorically denied prohibiting any political party from being formed in Liberia. In addition to this, Mr Chesson denied the suppression of the rights of people. The former minister of justice said he did not know about any rampant act of corruption involving him during his administration. Chesson said as minister of justice, he was there to enforce the laws of the country in keeping with the constitution of Liberia.

The tribunal, headed by Lt Col (Frank Peckiney), was open to local and foreign journalists. Other officials expected to have faced the tribunal this afternoon included the chairman of the True Whig Party, Reginald Townsend. Meanwhile, the trial continues tomorrow.

NEW WAGE SCALE INTRODUCED FOR ARMED FORCES

AB161940 [Editorial Report] Monrovia Radio ELWA in English at 1600 GMT on 16 April reports: "A revised wage scale for the Armed Forces of Liberia has been announced by the People's Redemption Council." It then gives the new salaries for army personnel at each rank, ranging from $250/month for privates to $1,324/month for lieutenant general.

FOREIGN MINISTER REAFFIRMS ADHERENCE TO COMMITMENTS

AB162027 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Gabriel Bacchus Matthews, today met the heads of all foreign missions accredited here in Monrovia and acquainted them with Liberia's position on international relations under the new government of the People's Redemption Council. He assured the diplomats that Liberia will adhere to all foreign commitments and agreements with other nations of the international community.

According to a release from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Minister Matthews further reaffirmed that the People's Redemption Council was committed to the Charter of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, as well as the principles which guide the nonaligned movement. The minister expressed regret on behalf of the People's Redemption Council for any inconveniences to the members of the diplomatic corps and foreign residents in the country during the transition period.

Speaking on behalf of his colleagues, the French ambassador, the doyen of the diplomatic corps, Mr Louis Dollot, expressed the wish that the friendly relations between Liberia and other states will continue.

MONROVIA REPORTS FORMER VICE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON COUP

AB162039 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Text] The former Liberian vice president has been speaking about the recent coup in Liberia. Our correspondent has the details:

Former vice president Bishop Benny Warner has said in the United States that last Saturday's military coup in Liberia was inevitable. Supporting his statement in an interview with the BBC today, Mr Warner said history has shown that the Americo-Liberians had almost all the power in the country. He agreed that the Liberian people had long been suppressed, adding that as a result of this, the change has been overdue. He added that he accepted the post of vice president to speed up change in the country but, disappointingly, Mr Warner said, there were indications that suggestions were accepted but never implemented.

Speaking today on the BBC program "Focus on Africa" the former vice president said he intends to return to Liberia because he loves his country and his people. He said he did not have any ill feelings against the new regime because, according to him, I am familiar with all its leaders.

DOE ADDRESSES ARMY OFFICERS, CHANGES INDEPENDENCE DAY

AB162148 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Text] The chairman of the People's Redemption Council and head of state, Master Sgt Samuel Doe, has declared April 12 as the new independence day of Liberia. The day is also to be known as National Redemption Day.

Master Sergeant Doe, made this declaration today when he addressed army officers at the Barclay Training Center in Monrovia. The head of state said, July 26, 1847, was the day when Liberian people became prisoners on their own soil and were deprived of enjoying the fruits of their land.

Master Sergeant Doe said the situation in Liberia needed their concern and they replied by giving the Liberian people a new government that would provide a good atmosphere where all of their children and grandchildren will enjoy freedom, peace, harmony and a good standard of living. He added that one of the objectives of his council was to insure peace among the Liberian people and feeling of oneness, adding: We do not want one group of people to feel that they are better than another group.

He told senior officers of the armed forces that they were not included in the coup because he and his associates wanted the operation to be carried out purely by junior officers. He assured the senior officers that he was convinced that they were in full agreement with the members of the People's Redemption Council. He told junior officers not to flee for fear but call for the cooperation of all members of the armed forces. The head of state said he will not tolerate any acts of disorder among members of the armed forces. He cautioned them to be responsible people and protect the lives and property of Liberians and foreigners alike.

MINISTER APPOINTS ACTING MAYOR OF MONROVIA

AB162210 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Excerpt] Mrs Anna Cooper has been appointed acting mayoress of the Monrovia city corporation, while Miss [name indistinct] has been appointed as deputy mayoress and special assistant to the mayor. The appointments were announced today by the new minister of local government, rural development and urban reconstruction, Oscar (Kuya), when he visited the Monrovia city hall.

According to a press release of the Monrovia city corporation, all other directors of the corporation retain their positions. The minister of local government earlier stated that in view of the change of government, the Monrovia City Council had been dissolved by the People's Redemption Council. Minister (Kuya) appealed to the employees of the Monrovia city corporation to work cooperatively in order to keep the affairs of the corporation running effectively.

FORMER BONG COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT ARRESTED

AB162214 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Text] Former Bong County superintendent (Joseph Nowako) has been arrested. He was arrested on his farm in Gbonga, Bong County, and is presently detained at the central prison in Gbanga. Reports from Gbanga say thousands of citizens paraded the streets in Gbanga singing praises to God for the arrest of a man they said had been giving them hard times.

IVORY COAST ENVOY PROTESTS MINISTER'S REMARKS

AB170759 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0625 GMT 17 Apr 80

[Text] The Ivorian ambassador accredited to Liberia, Clement Kaul Meledje, was yesterday received in audience by Liberian foreign minister, G. Bacchus Matthews, in Monrovia, during which the ambassador conveyed President Houphouet-Boigny's displeasure over recent remarks made by a Liberian cabinet minister about President Boigny and the intentions of the Ivorian Government. In response, Minister Matthews expressed regrets on behalf of the Government of Liberia and noted that the minister of foreign affairs is the government's official spokesman on matters of foreign affairs. The ambassador thereupon assured Foreign Minister Matthews that the Ivorian leader would be pleased by this official statement and then reaffirmed his government's determination to maintain cordial and harmonious relations with the government and people of Liberia.

WARNING ISSUED ON DISTRIBUTION OF FLYERS

AB171001 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0625 GMT 17 Apr 80

[Text] The Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs of the People's Redemption Council has issued a strong warning against the distribution of sheets indicating huge sums of money said to be bank accounts of the late President William Tolbert; his brother, Frank Emmanuel Tolbert; former house speaker, Richard Henries and former finance minister, (James C. Phillips). A spokesman of the ministry said there was no evidence to support the figures shown on the mimeograph sheets which were being sold for 25 cents per copy in Monrovia. The presidential affairs spokesman said the Peope's Redemption Council does not intend to encourage misrepresentation of facts as this was not the intention of the revolution.

ANGOLA

MPLA, SED DELEGATION SIGN AGREEMENT

LD161540 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 16 Apr 80 EA

[Text] An agreement (?confirming) the friendly relations already existing between the MPLA Labor Party and the SED was signed in Luanda this morning at the end of a GDR party delegation's visit to our country. Comrade Alfonso van Dunen Mbinda, the party's central committee secretary for external relations, signed on behalf of Angola, while (Horst Brasch), member of the SED Central Committee, signed on behalf of his country. The SED delegation is due to leave for home today.

INTERIOR MINISTER LEADS GOVERNMENT DELEGATION TO USSR

AB161230 Luanda Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Text] Comrade Kundi Paiama, (?alternate) member of the Political Bureau and home affairs minister, is currently in the capital of the Soviet Union for an 8-day official visit leading a government delegation. The delegation is composed, among others, of comrade (Olchandero Burgis Chito), deputy minister of home affairs [as heard] and of some other officials from the same ministry.

MPLA MEMBER DEPARTS FOR RHODESIA, REPRESENTS DOS SANTOS

AB161410 Luanda Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Text] The secretary general of the Angolan Trade Union and member of the Political Bureau of the MPLA Labor Party, (Sakualou Vualo), left Luanda this morning for Salisbury where he will represent the president, Jose Eduardo dos Santos at the festivities marking the independence of Zimbabwe to be held on 18 April. Shortly before his departure, (Sakualou Vualo) declared that he will serve as testimony of the support which the People's Republic of Angola has for the valiant fighting people of Zimbabwe and their unshaken solidarity with them.

The Angolan delegation includes our country's charge d'affaires in Zambia, Andre Miranda, and the head of the liberation movement division in the external relations department of the MPLA Labor Party.

MOZAMBIQUE

EDUCATION COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH GDR

LD161418 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1223 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Text] Maputo--A protocol on GDR-Mozambique cooperation in education was signed today in Maputo. It introduces a new phase in the cooperation between the two countries in the plan for the development of the Mozambique education system. The signing of the protocol was the highpoint of the last day of the visit to Mozambique by GDR Minister of Education Margot Honecker.

Yesterday Margot Honecker was received by president of FRELIMO and of Mozambique Samora Machel for a cordial exchange of views. She also had a friendly meeting with SWAPO president, Sam Nujoma.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH LAOS

LD162030 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 16 Apr 80 EA

[Text] The governments of the People's Republic of Mozambique and the Lao People's Democratic Republic have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at embassy level effective today. According to a communique distributed by the Mozambique News Agency, the two governments have expressed their conviction that this agreement will contribute to the strengthening of bilateral relations.

MAPUTO QUESTIONS FUTURE OF RHODESIA'S SELOUS SCOUTS

LD161348 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 15 Apr 80 CA

[Text] At the time of the elections in Rhodesia in February many people were asking what would happen to the mercenaries who were recruited by the illegal Rhodesian regime to fight the Zimbabwe liberation movement. The dogs of war have no home except the battlefields, and where would they go, without a war in Rhodesia? In this cabled report from Salisbury our special correspondent in Rhodesia tells us what has happened to at least some of Rhodesia's soldiers of fortune:

Hundreds of mercenaries, mostly from South Africa, the United States and European countries, who operated in the Rhodesian Army's Selous Scouts and guard force, have crossed the border into South Africa. Their next fighting ground is southern Angola, where they will join the South Africa-backed UNITA terrorists who conduct hit-and-run raids from bases in Namibia.

Soon after the Rhodesian election results were out on 4th March Prime Minister-designate Robert Mugabe demanded that the mercenaries in the Rhodesian military apparatus leave the country. Their antiguerrilla skills and their staunch anti-communist ideology made up a good record for the South African defense force that quickly moved to sign them on contract. By mid-March the Selous Scouts and the guard force were visited in their barracks by top Rhodesian officers, including Gen Peter Walls, who told them that their existence as fighting units in Rhodesia was over. They must lay down their guns, they were told.

Feeling disgruntled some mercenaries opened their mouths to the wrong people, and the word was out that the South Africans would be giving them visas to enter the country and that many contracts would be signed. They also said that their outgoing trip would be only temporary for their next stop was Namibia, from where, backed by the Namibia-based South African Army, Jonas Savimbi's UNITA is launching attacks on Angola.

Right now UN-supervised negotiations are going on to establish a 50 km demilitarized zone along the Namibian border with Angola. But South Africa is postponing an agreement because the proposal would seriously jeopardize UNITA's incursions into Angola or the withdrawal of its units in times of Angolan counteroffensive. The plan to send the mercenaries from the Rhodesian theatre of war into Angola lends final credence to the claim that South Africa's real stand on the demilitarized zone proposal is that of keeping the negotiations going while hedging their bets on a practical level.

Another, still obscure, side of the South African-Rhodesian military connection is that of the use South Africa might make of the 9,000 black soldiers who were in the Selous Scouts and guard force. According to the mercenaries themselves these black soldiers are the most psychologically affected by the Rhodesian Army's propaganda against ZANU-PF and ZANLA. Their sole aim, say the mercenaries, continues to be that of fighting ZANLA and now the legitimate ZANU-PF government of Zimbabwe. When the officers told the black Selous Scouts and guard force members to disband they were met with anti-ZANLA songs and slogan shouting. The soldiers are very reluctant to go back to the tribal trust lands as common civilians. Not only do they fear the people, because they are known by the villagers for the atrocities they committed during the war, but their whole life purpose has been tuned to the rhythm of killing. According to a very reliable source South African military circles are now debating whether to respond positively to Mr Mugabe's noninterference statements on South Africa, or to use these black soldiers in a war of attrition against Robert Mugabe's government in the hope of creating a social climate of unrest, which would facilitate a coup d'etat. The next few months will undoubtedly bring out Pretoria's grand military designs for the area.

RHODESIA

ROBERT MUGABE INTERVIEWED ON TRANSITION ISSUES

LD161958 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1614 GMT 16 Apr 80 CA

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, today held a news conference, less than 32 hours before the moment of independence. The first questioner asked Mr Mugabe to say what he thinks his first act will be on formally assuming power. [begin recording]

[Mugabe] Independence will bestow on us full sovereignty, and therefore, after independence, it will be our task to examine those areas where urgent action is required, and take such action. We have already stated that there are certain areas where we have to act as quickly as possible. But of course, acting in promotion of any program depends on the actual situation in the country, whether it's one of peace or one of conflict. And hence we shall, as quickly and energetically as possible, be working to integrate our forces and build one national army instead of the disparate forces which exist. That's one.

Then there are areas where there is a great deal of human suffering at the moment, and this is the area where we need the resettlement, to do the resettlement of our people as quickly as possible. There are people who are still outside and will not be present to celebrate independence with us because there are still refugees in other countries. We estimate that they now number close on to 200,000, and only about 50,000 or so came into the country before the elections. We had to bring them in and resettle them. There are people still in protected villages who need resettlement. There are those who have been forced into urban areas and would want to return to the rural areas where they belong. This is an area where we need urgent action. Then, of course, you have the areas of education and health, where we have to reestablish schools which were disrupted during the war, hospitals and clinics which were similarly disrupted. And naturally, of course, we also had to look at the conditions of the workers in the private sector and see how we can promote their welfare by improving their conditions [words indistinct].

[Unidentified, apparently American questioner] Prime Minister, if I may ask a brief followup. You mentioned the need to integrate the forces. Can you tell us how this effort has been going, since talks started shortly after you were elected, and what dangers the country faces after the three rival forces are integrated?

[Answer] I don't think there is any danger that we [word indistinct], but, of course, there is the fact that there is, unless you integrate the forces, there is always a possibility that some conflicts might arise between them. But for now, all forces have accepted the need for peace to come to the country. We have made immense progress. Just now a start has been made with a retraining program to convert the guerrilla forces into a regular army. This is taking place in the Llewellyn Barracks. I think Prince Charles is going to visit our forces tomorrow, sometimes [as heard]. And therefore, there has been this effort made, uhum, attempted. The next step would be to move, with speed, to integrate more forces than we have managed to integrate so far. We have created an integrated high command, a joint high command, which puts together the commanders of the Rhodesian Army and Air Force, ZANLA and ZIPLA commanders, under the headship of Lieutenant General Walls. Now, this is a stage towards the creation of a unified command, a single command. And so we believe we are moving positively in the direction of creating a single army with a single command.

[Question] Prime Minister [name indistinct] Washington STAR, many black Zimbabweans were disappointed with what they saw as the failure of the last government to equalize salaries, provide more job opportunities and land redistribution. Can we expect quick action under you, and what kind of a timetable would we see for that?

[Answer] Yes, we will move quite quickly. We already are working on the problem of land resettlement, which will take effect as soon as possible. And we will also work to improve the conditions of service in industry, and also in the public service. So we are moving quite fast. I don't think we are slow. We would be as slow as the previous government was. And results are bound to be seen in the next few months or so. [end recording]

There were several more questions put to the prime minister before this one, which are of great interest, viz, how soon will the government introduce free health services and education as promised in the election campaign? [begin recording]

[Mugabe] As soon as it is feasible, we are still working on the programs, which encompass various departments or ministries, and as soon as those programs are worked out we'll be able then to have a timescale in which they can take effect. I cannot just now say when precisely we shall begin, but we are determined that there is free education and a free medical service.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, Brian [name indistinct], Canadian Press. You have said that Zimbabwe will not be used as a staging point for attacks on South Africa. Do you [words indistinct] in the long run that Zimbabwe will inevitably become the frontline state against South Africa, in the same way that Mozambique was in regard to Rhodesia?

[Answer] We are a frontline state already, because the political problem that remains to be resolved is that of South Africa. The rest of Africa is now independent, and based on the wishes of the people, whatever changes might have occurred later. Now we have already stated that we are against apartheid, that we have our duty to assist our brothers and sisters in South Africa who are striving to achieve their national independence. But we can do so only in accordance with our ability to do so, and our ability restricts itself to operating within the OAU and contributing there to the liberation front and politically aligning ourselves with everybody else in giving the necessary political and diplomatic support. This is what we are able to do just now.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, when can we expect the release of the 18 jailed guerrillas of the African National Congress of South Africa?

[Answer] Ah, that's long overdue. I don't think we should, under my government, be seen to be imprisoning our [words indistinct]. They should be released as soon as possible. As soon as we can determine where they should go, they stand to be released any time.

[Question] Will there be a time between now and the general elections when the people of Zimbabwe will be asked to say something about the constitution, whether they like the constitution or not, in a referendum or otherwise?

[Answer] Oh! I am surprised at that question, because the people have voted for a government under that constitution, and to me that implies acceptance of the constitution. How can we go back to a stage which should have preceded the election, if it was to come at all? Supposing we have the referendum and the people voted no against the constitution, don't you see that it would have created problems for us? It would mean the government elected under that constitution is unacceptable to the people because the constitution is (?in itself) unacceptable. We have taken for granted that getting the people to vote under that constitution is getting them to approve the constitution as well. [end recording]

BCC INTERVIEWS MUGABE ON ECONOMY, RELATIONS WITH S. AFRICA

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[Recorded interview with Robert Mugabe conducted in Salisbury on 16 April by Peter Snow and carried on the "Newsnight" program]

[Text] [Snow] There won't be many Europeans rejoicing at tomorrow night's celebrations. One big businessman I spoke to said he was inviting all his friends to an all-night party tomorrow and describing it as a wake. But even so, most Europeans are very encouraged by the moderate line so far being pursued by Mr Mugabe, the new prime minister. I asked him if these people were now in for a shock.

[Mugabe] No, nobody is in for a shock. If they are happy about the speed with which we have moved, they will continue to be happy with the speed with which we shall continue to move. I, myself, am determined that as we move, we do not disrupt our economic system, that we maintain it as much...

[Question] The capitalist system.

[Answer] Well, the system is capitalistic as it is--that we maintain it as it is as much as possible.

[Question] But you are a socialist.

[Answer] Yes I am, but a socialist does not have to start by destroying the infrastructure which he finds. I think it is calamitous for you to do so--well, where do you build your socialist ideas on, unless you accept what you have and then through persuasion and education you can expect people to accept your ideas. I have never accepted that ideas, socialist or otherwise must come by way of compulsion and regimentation.

[Question] But now how will you yourself be able to regulate that pace of change. How far will you feel that you have to respond to the more militant members of your cabinet who insist on perhaps a faster speed than you like.

[Answer] I do not think there is any person in my cabinet who is more socialist than I am. I can assure you of that. I think I am the most leftist of all in regard to socialist ideas, and so I....

[Question] Some are more impatient than you are, somewhat.

[Answer] Well, I do not think so; I do not think so. I think everybody realizes that if change is to come, then you must build the necessary infrastructure for it to occur; otherwise, it is not permanent change. How can we bring about change, for example, in respect of the schemes we have for the resettlement of our people if we do not have the necessary finances. True, we have the ideas, but we may not have the necessary funds, and this will be a restricting factor.

[Question] It is no secret, Mr Mugabe, that Mr Nkomo's party is very bitter with you for the share of the cake that you have given them, the share of power that you have been able to grant them. What do you say to that?

[Answer] No, I don't know him to be that bitter. Certainly, I know him to have expressed the desire to have one more, one or two more cabinet seats.

[Question] How far do you feel the need, or did you feel the need to be more generous than you were actually able to be with Mr Nkomo because of this racial divide between the parties--this tribal divide, I am sorry--between the parties. I mean, is there danger do you think that the tension that really is there...

[Answer] I do not know what tribal division between the parties you are talking about.

[Question] Well, ZAPU is clearly based in Matabeleland and your party is clearly based on Mashonaland, although of course there were seats on both sides, too.

[Answer] So that should actually disabuse your mind of the belief that there is tribal division between us. I mean the fact is that ZAPU has supporters both in Mashonaland and in Matabeleland. True, the fact that Nkomo comes from Matabeleland creates a definite base for him there, and we recognize that.

[Question] Doesn't that hold the seeds of tension, perhaps even civil war if things go wrong between you?

[Answer] No, certainly no, I don't think so. I think it would be an exceedingly foolish leader who would plunge the country into bloodshed once again.

[Question] What do you see as your role in the confrontation between black and white in southern Africa?

[Answer] I think our role is first to consolidate our independence here, to ensure that our political control is accompanied by economic independence, and that's I think our priority just now. And obviously we are interested in the situation in South Africa improving but we cannot do more than other African brothers are prepared to do; namely, to operate through the machinery of the OAU to support the liberation struggle which is going on there, and do so through the OAU strictly.

[Question] But the OAU is against having sporting links with South Africa?

[Answer] Yeah.

[Question] You have sporting links, you are allowing...

[Answer] Well, we have inherited these links, and I suppose what you are calling upon us to do is to sever them.

[Question] No, I am just curious to know what your answer is, because your rugby team is about to go off and spend...

[Answer] Well, I am not sure that that is it. If they go there now it only means that we haven't yet decided what posture we are going to take in relations to sport with South Africa.

[Question] How are you going to be able to resist pressures from the Organization of African Unity, the OAU, to fight an armed struggle against South Africa?

[Answer] I don't think that the OAU is going to require us to do much more than the rest of the OAU members are capable of doing, and I think in the final analysis it is the interests of Zimbabwe that guide us more than the interests of any other people.

[Question] But you, after all, had support from Mozambique when you were fighting an armed struggle against the then Rhodesian Government. What are you going to say to South African nationalists who come here and say to you: Look, Mozambique ruined herself for you; why don't you, if you have to, ruin yourself for us.

[Answer] If we ruin ourselves absolutely--and here you must take into account the fact that South Africa is a far greater power than the regime here was and the ruin would be absolute--what base then would they have, those who would urge us to provide them with bases?

[Question] Well, I mean Mozambique ended up in a terrible mess as a result of the fight that you were waging against Ian Smith.

[Answer] Yes, but then we succeeded you see in bringing about change.

[Question] Might not the South African resistance movement succeed?

[Answer] Well, one does not know, but you have to weigh the benefits against the disadvantages and take a decision accordingly. Our own view is that we assist the liberation struggle there politically, diplomatically and morally by participating in the international forums that are available, the OAU, the nonaligned movement and the United Nations.

[Question] But no military bases for South African nationalist fighters here?

[Answer] None whatsoever.